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Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

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Vol. 8 | No. 284 | Pages 12

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Modi calls for truce, release of hostages in West Asia

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Israeli strike kills top Hezbollah commander

Tel Aviv steps up assault even as toll rises to 560; thousands flee Lebanon

SPORT | PAGE 11

PV Sindhu ropes in Anup Sridhar as new coach

In a nutshell

Another YSRCP RS member quits

NEW DELHI: YSRCP Rajya Sabha member Ryaga Krishnaiah quit his House membership, becoming the third leader of the party to do so following its debacle in Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Sources said that Rajya Sabha chai rman Jagdeep Dhankhar has accepted his resignation with immediate effect. Following the resignation, the party now has nine members in Rajya Sabha. PTI

Tripura: 500 militants surrender

AGARTALA: Around 500 militants belonging to outlawed groups National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) on Tuesday laid down arms before Chief Minister Manik Saha. While welcoming the militants to the mainstream at a function in Jampuijala in Sepahijala district, the Chief Minister asserted that militancy is not the solution to any problem. PTI

Jarange's health deteriorates

JALNA: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange's health deteriorated on Tuesday as he entered the eighth day of his hunger strike to press for reservations for the Marathas under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. He refused to take fluids or medication despite appeals from members of the Maratha community gathered at the protest site in Antarwali Sarathi village in Jalna. PTI

Pakistani beggars flock to Saudi

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ara bia raised concerns over growing number of Pakistani beggars arriving in the Kingdom under the guise of religious pilgrimage and asked Islamabad to take action. Authorities also warned that if the situation is not controlled, it could negatively affect Pakistani Umrah and Hajj pilgrims, according to sources.

WORLD PAGE 9

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 125
Retail live	Rs. 147
With skin	Rs. 213
Skinless	Rs. 243
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 74

Why law not the same for all? KTR on HYDRAA

Says Anumula brothers destroying lives of poor in Telangana

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Hauling Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over the coals for pushing the poor out onto the streets by demolishing their homes while protecting his own brother from the law, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday said the Anumula brothers were destroying the lives of the poor in Telangana under the guise of HYDRAA operations.

In an unprecedented scathing attack on the Congress-led State government, Rama Rao singled out Revanth Reddy's brother, A Tirupathi Reddy, for receiving preferential treatment and being served with a 30-day notice, enabling the latter to approach the court and get stay orders. The poor, meanwhile, lost their homes within hours.

"Vedashree, an LKG student, wasn't even given time to collect her books before her house was demolished. A 50-year-old woman, Kasturi Bai, lost her only source of livelihood — a small shoe repair shop — due to these heartless demolitions. Houses bought just 72 hours prior were levelled without consideration despite having all legal documentation," he said, questioning why Tirupathi Reddy remained untouched in the wave of demolitions, while the lives of ordinary citizens were being trampled upon.

"Tirupathi Reddy garu, you seem to have some kind of superpower or secret weapon. Only you seem to have been unscathed in this madness. Tell us how normal people in Telangana can use this special power. We all thought the Constitution is the only superpower in any democracy," he remarked sarcastically.

Pointing out the biased treatment for Tirupathi Reddy by HYDRAA, which was denying time for common people to even collect their valuables, he said they had just served notices to Tirupathi Reddy, despite violations under WALTA (Telangana Water, Land and Trees Act). "In the name of HYDRAA, the poor are being thrown onto the streets," the BRS working president said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Tirupathi Reddy *garu*, you seem to have some kind of superpower. Only you seem to have been unscathed in this madness. Tell us how normal people can use this special power.

— KT Rama Rao,
BRS working president

Takes *Ajab Prem ki Gajab Kahani* dig at Bandi Sanjay

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao took a dig at union Minister Bandi Sanjay for his delayed response to the AMRUT scam in Telangana. He likened Sanjay's reaction to "a friend finally showing up to a party they were called out for missing - awkward, compelled, and late." He questioned the silence of BJP leaders on the issue despite the involvement of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in the alleged scam. He said Sanjay was acting out of compulsion now, after being silent on Revanth Reddy's antics, indicating their precious 'Ajab Prem ki Gajab Kahani'.

He pointed out that BJP MLA Alleti Maheshwar Reddy earlier raised concerns about corruption in the AMRUT scheme, yet the BJP leadership, including Sanjay, had failed to act.

(SEE PAGE 2)

HC upholds Guv's nod to probe Sidda

Says decision in MUDA case as per law, dismisses Karnataka CM's petition

Why should I resign? it is only said that inquiry needs to be done. We will face them (oppn) politically

— SIDDARAMAIAH
KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

BENGALURU

In a setback to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed his petition challenging Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's approval for a probe against him in the MUDA land allotment case, saying the gubernatorial order nowhere "suffers from want of application of mind".

The Karnataka Chief Minister had challenged the legality of Gehlot's sanction for the investigation against him in the alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in a prime locality.

The single judge Bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna said in normal circumstances, a Governor has to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 163 of the Constitution of India, "but (the Governor) can take independent decisions in exceptional circumstances, and the present case projects one such exception" and dismissed Siddaramaiah's petition.

Asserting that the gubernatorial order nowhere "suffers from want of application of mind", the Judge said, "It is not a case of not even a semblance of application of mind by the Governor, but abundance of application of mind." "No fault can be found with the Governor exercising the independent discretion to pass the impugned order; it would suffice if the reasons are recorded in the file of the decision-making authority, particularly of the high office, and those reasons succinctly form part of the impugned order. A caveat reason must be in the file. Reasons for the first time cannot be brought before the constitutional court by way of objections," he added.

On his part, Siddaramaiah alleged that the entire controversy was the opposition's "conspiracy" against him and his government, and said he would face them politically. "Why should I resign? Has (H D) Kumaraswamy (Union Minister) resigned? He is on bail, ask him....it is only said that inquiry needs to be done. At the inquiry stage itself, resignation is sought. I will answer them...We will face them politically because it is a conspiracy," Siddaramaiah said at a press conference.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

Mystery shrouds Pharma City plan

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

On January 1 this year, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy told the media that his government was 'remodelling' the previous BRS government's Hyderabad Pharma City project, to go for 10 Pharma Villages on the city outskirts instead of having one pharma city at a single location.

On January 6, at a meeting with CII representatives, he reiterated this plan, stating that Pharma Villages would be developed instead of Pharma Cities. On February 18, while inaugurating the Telangana State Fire Services headquarters building, he again said his government would set up Pharma Villages and not Pharma Cities. "My government has a clear policy and there is no room for misconceptions," he said. On February 27, at the BioAsia Summit 2024, while announcing the second phase of the Genome Valley, another BRS-initiated project, Revanth Reddy said the process of setting up 10 Pharma Villages with an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore had already begun in 'greenfield pharma sectors' in Vikarabad, Medak and Nalgonda.

'Project is gone'

Speaking to the media at the same event the same day, IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu said the government decided to shelve the Pharma City project and instead establish 10 Pharma Villages across the State, beginning with Vikarabad, Medak and Nalgonda. "Pharma City is gone," Sridhar Babu had said. However, over the last one week, the State is hearing a new version, courtesy the Telangana High Court.

(SEE PAGE 2)

NO STOPPING!

A para-cyclist from Netherlands competes in the time-trial event at the Cycling Road World Championships in Zurich. — Photo: AP

Cash-for-vote: Court orders CM to attend hearing

HYDERABAD

A city court on Tuesday ordered Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to attend the hearing of the cash-for-vote case on October 16. Nampally Metropolitan Criminal Court directed all the accused, including Revanth Reddy, to attend the hearing.

During the hearing, the court took strong note of the absence of the accused except Mathaiah Jerus alem. Revanth Reddy, Uday Simha, Vem Krishna Keerthan, and Venkata Veeraiah did not attend the hearing.

The court directed that all accused should be present in the court during the next hearing on October 16. The development came four days after the Supreme Court dismissed the petition filed by a few leaders of BRS, seeking transfer of the trial in the case to a court outside Telangana. IANS

Telangana likely to witness heavy rains over next 48 hrs

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad issued a heavy rainfall alert for almost all districts across the State for the next 48 hours, even as intense thunderstorms lashed Hyderabad and districts on Tuesday.

In its 48-hour forecast, the IMD-H predicted heavy rainfall for Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal.

A woman makes her way amid rain at Punjagutta in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

Apart from heavy rainfall alert, the IMD-H also issued a thunderstorm warning accompanied with lightning and gusty winds ranging from 30 to 60 kmph for Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Nalgonda, Siddipet, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Govt allocates BRAOU land to JNAFAU

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Despite strong opposition from teaching and non-teaching staff of Dr BR Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), the government issued orders allocating 10 acres of the varsity land in Jubilee Hills to Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU).

The Higher Education Department sent letters on September 19, allocating 10 acres to the Registrars of both BRAOU and JNAFAU. The news of the allocation became public on Tuesday. Ironically, the letter came at a time when BRAOU has been pressing for campus expansion in view of increased enrollment.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Double whammy for Khammam ryots

STATE BUREAU
Khammam

The farmers in the district are in trouble after the recent rains and flash floods destroyed much of their standing crops. That's not all. They are facing another problem in form of sand deposits in agricultural fields.

A large extent of agricultural lands on the banks of Munneru, Akeru and Palair streams in the district were damaged due to huge quantities of sand deposited in the fields. It is causing problems to farmers on two counts — firstly, they lost standing crops, and secondly, the soil structure has been altered.

Many farmers are worried that it might take them at least two or three years to recover from the losses. Speaking to 'Telangana Today', CPM's Telangana Rythu Sangham leader Bhukya Veerabharam said that a farmer has to spend approximately Rs 2 lakh to clear sand deposits and restore the land to its original form. However, the Central team that recently toured flood-affected areas reportedly told the farmers that there is no provision to compensate for the loss caused by sand deposits. As many as 2,700 acres have been affected by sand deposits across the district, he said.

Farmers are in dire straits as they could not find any means to pay the debts they took to invest in farming and to pay fee for their children's education among others. Farmers are yet to receive compensation of Rs 10,000 per acre announced by the State government. The State and Central governments should immediately provide proper compensation and provide assistance, he demanded.

A farmer, Avireni Veerabhadram, said he cultivated paddy and chilli in two acres each and cotton in one acre by investing around Rs 6 lakh. Sand has been accumulated in four acres, thereby fully damaging the crops, he lamented. Similarly, other farmers, Gaddam Narayana and Vuribandi Chandraiah, said that they lost crops in Akeru floods, including irrigation pump sets. The Central team visited the fields 20 days ago, but the promised assistance is yet to be provided, they complained.

Agricultural lands on the banks of Munneru, Akeru and Palair streams in the district damaged due to sand deposits.

FORECAST
Rain or thundershowers would occur towards evening or night

Max. tem: 32.0°C
Min. tem: 21.4°C
RH: 65%
Rainfall: 61.5 mm

In Brief

HYDERABAD

EESL, BEE workshop

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), hosted a workshop in Hyderabad aimed at advancing the adoption of energy-efficient technologies in India's industrial sector. This workshop is part of the ongoing project, 'Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency', supported by the Global Environment Facility. Since 2018, this project was being implemented by the UN Environment Programme and the Asian Development Bank.

HYDERABAD

Aizant's contribution

A city-based company, Aizant Pharma Drug Research Solutions, located at Ameerpet, contributed Rs 10 lakh for installation of surveillance camera network. Srinivas Varma Rudraraju, CMD, and his daughter Soumya Rudraraju, who is director of the company, handed over the amount for installation of the cameras in Borabanda police station limits. The police officers appreciated the contribution of the company.

HYDERABAD

Transforming health care

Vahnija Global Life Sciences, in association with PRGENIX, hosted a launch event to unveil its innovative projects aimed at transforming the health care landscape through the power of digitisation. Dr. Yadukul S, Deputy Superintendent of AIIMS and ABDM Nodal Officer, and V Pathak, CEO of PRGENIX, along with others participated. Dr. I Priyadarshini, founder and CEO of Vahnija Global Life Sciences, spoke on the occasion.

Maternal, child care services hit

Ten months on, the government weakening existing initiatives

M SAI GOPAL
HYDERABAD

Ten months into its formation, the State government is yet to come up with a big ticket announcement or frame a unique initiative to improve maternal and child health care services in government hospitals in Telangana State.

Instead of focusing on ways to improve facilities in government hospitals, the State government, on the contrary, appears to be determined to weaken a bouquet of existing initiatives that were specifically aimed at encouraging pregnant women to visit government hospitals for their antenatal checkups and avoid falling into a debt trap by visiting private health care facilities.

Several major public health initiatives aimed at addressing maternal and infant mortality rates in Telangana State have been either curtailed or abandoned. Despite several initiatives sponsored by the union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), New Delhi, not a single special new initiative has been launched in place of the programmes, which are no longer getting the State government's patronage.

Several major public health initiatives aimed at addressing maternal and infant mortality rates in Telangana have been either curtailed or abandoned.

KCR Kits

A case in point is the KCR Kits initiative in which pregnant women from Telangana State used to get benefitted financially for choosing government hospitals. The initiative not only fuelled regular antenatal checks but also improved institutional deliveries, as pregnant women and their families started preferring Government hospitals over private facilities.

Within a year of its launch, the initiative single-handedly increased admissions of pregnant women in government hospitals, when compared to private sector, which was not the case before 2014. The KCR Kits essentially comprised a financial incentive of Rs 13,000 (for girl child) and Rs 12,000 (for boy child) used to get directly credited to the beneficiaries' account and a kit containing goodies for the infant and mother at the time of discharge from government hospitals. The initiative also played a huge role in fuelling infant immunisations in which Telangana State was among the top three in the country.

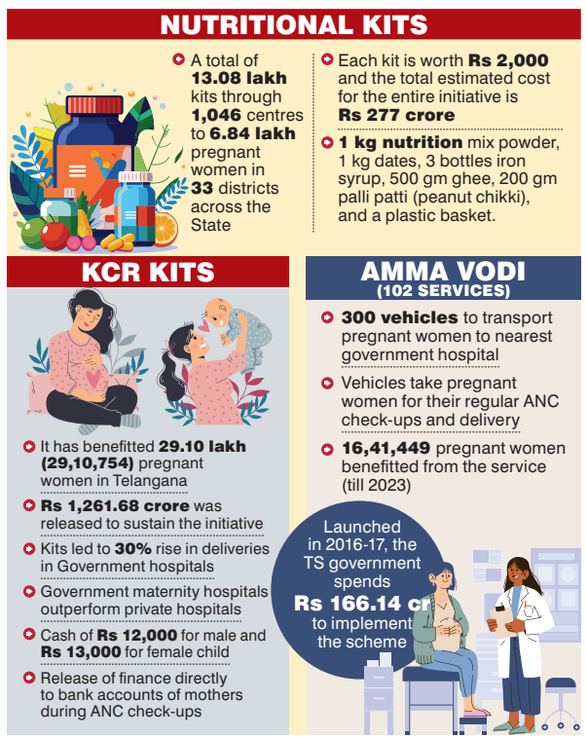
Amma Vodi

Another unique initiative focused at mother and child care that is not receiving proper support in government hospitals is Amma Vodi scheme in districts. The initiative entailed providing transport facilities to pregnant women, who often find it difficult to travel long distances to access the nearest government health care facilities.

The mandate of 102 Amma Vodi vehicle services was to ensure pregnant women get free transport facilities for their regular antenatal checkups, during delivery and drop back home after delivery.

NUTRITIONAL KITS

Prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women is quite high in Telangana State and additional nutritional support during the time of pregnancy is much needed. In some districts, the prevalence of anaemia could be as high as 58 per cent among pregnant women in Telangana. To address these issues, earlier a total of nearly 13.08 lakh kits, comprising nutritious food, used to get distributed through 1,046 centres to 6.84 lakh pregnant women in 33 districts across the State. Each kit is worth Rs 2,000 and the total estimated cost for the entire initiative is Rs 277 crore.



Due dates for TOSS public exam fee announced

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana Open School Society (TOSS) on Tuesday announced due dates to pay the SSC and Intermediate Public Examinations fee under the tatkal scheme.

The regular examination fee, along with additional fee of Rs 500 for SSC and Rs 1,000 for Intermediate exams will be accepted via the TOSS official website https://www.telanganaopenschool.org/ or MeeSeva and TG Online Centres on September 25 and 26.

Candidates who pay the examination fee under tatkal scheme can download their hall tickets from the TOSS website on or before September 30. The exams will be conducted from October 3 to 9, according to a press release.

BDL gets new technical director

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

D V Srinivas Rao

DV Srinivas Rao has assumed charge as Director (Technical) of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a leading public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. Srinivas Rao brings with him over three decades of extensive experience in the defence sector, having held key leadership roles at BDL.

Prior to this appointment, he served as General Manager (Design & Engineering), where he led the in-house Research and Development (R&D) Division of BDL. During his career, Srinivas Rao played a pivotal role in spearheading numerous defence projects, many of which are now deployed and extensively used by the Indian Armed Forces. He has closely collaborated with several Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) labs and was instrumental in establishing the state-of-the-art Electronics Division at BDL, which now produces critical sub-systems for various weapon systems used by India's defence forces.

He is a BTech in Electronics & Instrumentation from Kakatiya University and an MTech in Digital Systems and Computer Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad.

RGIA connects Hyderabad to six Indian cities

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a move to significantly enhance domestic air connectivity from Hyderabad, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Shamshabad, on Tuesday announced the launch of new direct flight services by IndiGo to six cities across India.

These new routes will open up convenient travel options, making Hyderabad a central hub for travellers exploring various cultural and heritage-rich destinations in India. The six cities to get connected to RGIA through IndiGo include Agartala, Jammu, Agra, Kanpur, Ayodhya and Prayagraj. The IndiGo will begin operations on these routes in late September 2024.

The Agartala (IXA) flight has been connected be connected to Hyderabad four times a week from Monday, September 23. The flight will depart RGIA at 7.30 am and arrive at 10.20 pm.

IndiGo will launch direct flights from Hyderabad to Agartala, Jammu, Agra, Kanpur, Ayodhya and Prayagraj

The Jammu (IXJ) flight, starting from Tuesday, September 24, will operate three times a week and depart RGIA at 7.05 am and arrive at 10.10 am. The Agra (AGR) flight, which will be operated three-times-a-week service starting from September 28, will leave Hyderabad at 01.55 pm and reach Agra by 04.05 pm.

The Kanpur (KNU) flight will be connected four times a week beginning September 27 and will depart Hyderabad at 8.55 am and arriving at 11 am. The Ayodhya (AYJ) flight, which will be operated four times weekly, will departure Hyderabad at 01.55 pm and arrive at 04.05 pm.

The Prayagraj (IXD) (formerly Allahabad) flight will be operated three times a week starting from September 28 and will leave Hyderabad at 08.55 am and arrive at 10.50 am, according to Pradeep Panicker, CEO-GHIAL.

MANUU notifies last date for applications

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The last date for submission of online application forms for distance mode programmes of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is September 30.

The central university is offering admissions into MA (Urdu, Hindi, English, Arabic, History & Islamic Studies), BA, BCom, BSc (Life Sciences), BSc (Physical Sciences) Diploma in Journalism & Mass Communication, Teach English, Early Childhood Care & Education, School Leadership & Management and Employability Skills, Certificate in Proficiency in Urdu through English and Certificate in Functional English.

E-prospectus and online application form is available on the university website https://manuu.edu.in/dde/ and admission fee can be paid up to October 10. For further details contact: 040-23008463 or 040-23120600 (ext 2207 & 2208).

CCMB-LaCONES celebrate Wildlife Week

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

As a part of the Wildlife Week celebrations throughout the globe, the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)-Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) is organising a special event filled with fun activities for school students of Hyderabad. The CCMB-LaCONES will conduct an interactive competition as a fun way to learn about the biodiversity. This year, the CCMB-LaCONES proposes to conduct drawing and painting competition and treasure hunt to the school students based on the wildlife theme on October 4. Each school for treasure hunt can participate in teams of two. The team can have students from classes IX – XII and every team must have an adult, who may either be a teacher or a parent.

The themes for the drawing and painting competition (Classes VI – VIII) include Organisms of the Eastern Ghats and Livelihood in the Eastern Ghats. The theme for Classes IX to XII Senior School will be Lesser known Organisms of the Eastern Ghats and Eastern Ghats. Registrations are open until October 1 and all participating teams will get online certificate of participation. For details: www.ccmb.res.in .

UoH's ECDAP holds advocacy event

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Empowered Committee for Differently Abled Persons (ECDAP), University of Hyderabad, and Help The Blind Foundation (HTBF) — a Chennai-based non-governmental organisation, recently conducted an advocacy event here.

The visually-impaired students of UoH took part as major stakeholders in the event and interacted with more than 80 corporate leaders and HR professionals. The event brought together a group of corporate leaders, Human Resource (HR) professionals, non-governmental organisations working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in education and employment. As a nodal unit looking after the affairs of persons with disabilities at UoH, the ECDAP facilitated the participation of students in the event.

Continuation
from page 1

Why law not the same for all? KTR on HYDRAA

"But Tirupathi Reddy was served a notice, allowing him to approach the court and get stay orders ensuring that his properties remain untouched amidst this destruction. Is there one rule for the poor and another for the Chief Minister and his family?" he asked, also questioning why the houses of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Congress elected representatives and leaders constructed illegally were not demolished.

Earlier, speaking at a party meeting in Serilingampally, Rama Rao dared Revanth Reddy to act against those who gave permission for the alleged illegal constructions which were being demolished. "Your previous Congress governments allowed the constructions, now you are demolishing homes and trying to pass on the blame to the BRS government. Take action against those who gave illegal permissions," he said.

He said while the BRS government's politics of construction focused on development by building double-bedroom houses, flyovers and sewage treatment plants, the Congress-led government's politics of destruction was all about 'destruction, subversion, and blackmail'.

Asking the State government to give ample time for the common people to relocate or to provide them rehabilitation before carrying out demolitions, he said Revanth Reddy and his family were looting the State and targeting vulnerable communities with the grudge that they had voted for the BRS. He reminded that Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi himself had alleged that Tirupathi Reddy was running a 'commission shop' in Madhapur.

Also highlighting the Congress government's failure to fulfil its promises, such as Rythu Bharosa, crop loan waivers for farmers and job creation, Rama Rao pointed out how farmers were protesting across the State because they had not received the promised crop loan waiver.

"Youth were still waiting for the two lakh jobs Rahul Gandhi promised in Ashok Nagar. All they have received are empty promises," he said, also stating that a bypoll in Serilingampally was imminent and that the BRS would emerge victorious. "People are angry with the Congress. They will vote for change. Serilingampally will see a new MLA soon," he asserted.

Telangana likely to witness heavy rains over next 48 hrs

Meanwhile, till Tuesday evening, based on the hourly rainfall data collected by the TSDPS, a large number of areas in Hyderabad received heavy to moderate rainfall. Areas in and around Saroornagar, Rock Town colony, Nagole received a maximum of 86 mm of rainfall followed by Bandlaguda, which received 75.5 mm and Habsiguda 70.3 mm.

Govt allocates BRAOU land to JNAFAU

"Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby accorded permission for allocation of 10 acres of land for JNAFAU in the premises of Dr BR Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, with separate entry and exit," the letter read.

Meanwhile, the teaching and non-teaching staff of BRAOU decided to continue to fight against the decision.

Mystery shrouds Pharma City plans

Even on Monday, Advocate General A Sudarshan Reddy told the court that the project, initiated under the previous BRS administration through GO Ms 31, was still intact.

Last week, when the High Court sought clarification from the State government on the Pharma City project, Revenue Principal Secretary Navin Mittal too told the court that no orders or decisions were taken to revoke GO Ms 31 and that the government was actively implementing the project. He also said the news about scrapping the proposed Pharma City in Yacharam mandal of Rangareddy was incorrect and unfounded.

So what is the truth? Even Congress leaders have stopped talking about the Pharma City and Villages, with confusion said to be prevailing even within the party in the wake of the contradictory statements from the State government.

Takes *Ajab Prem ki Gajab Kahani* dig at Bandi Sanjay

"You seem to have forgotten that you are the union Home Minister. AMRUT is your own Central government scheme. When your own MLA flagged corruption, why did you turn a blind eye?" he asked.

The BRS working president said the BRS exposed the entire scam with evidence, while the BJP leadership reacted only after the story grabbed public attention. He questioned the sincerity of Sanjay's words, pointing out that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was an autonomous body and why would it need the union Minister's recommendation to probe into the scam.

Rama Rao took a jibe at the union Minister, stating that the BJP was merely waiting for the next scandal to unfold before they took action. "It seems like you were waiting for the next scandal to join the fun. Who knows? We are all still trying to figure out 'Ye Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' between the BJP and Revanth Reddy," he quipped.

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Woman robbed, murdered

A woman was robbed and strangulated by unidentified persons at her house in Dundigal on Monday night. The victim, A Sharada, was a resident of Sri Vam shi Residency at Mallampet in Dundigal. On Monday morning, her son Vinay left for work while she was at home. In the night, when Vinay tried to contact her over the phone, she did not respond. He then contacted the neighbours who checked the house and found the woman lying dead in the bedroom. "Unknown persons had entered the house and strangulated her. The offenders took away some ornaments worn by the woman," the Dundigal police said.

HYDERABAD

Cheating case against YouTuber

The Narsingi police registered a case against popular YouTuber and social media influencer Harsha Sai, who makes videos as a stunt philanthropist, for allegedly cheating and exploiting a woman on the pretext of marrying her.
The woman alleged that Harsha Sai had befriended her after meeting at a party and both were working together on different assignments. The woman further alleged that they were producing a movie and Harsha Sai even took Rs 2 crore from her. The woman had participated in a television show recently.

Rains turn roads obstacle courses

Riddled with potholes, they offer a risky ride for users

Vehicles make their way through pothole-ridden road near Indira Park; (below) stagnated water at Ashok Nagar. — Photos: Anand Dharmana

ASIF YAR KHAN
HYDERABAD

The battered roads of Hyderabad have turned into perilous obstacle courses for commuters following the recent rains. At numerous places, the upper layer of the main roads has eroded, leaving behind the treacherous gravel beds that pose a serious threat to the safety of the motorists.

Take, for instance, the Banjara Hills Road No 1 to Masab Tank junction stretch. A portion of the road in front of the Darussalam Bank has peeled off, leaving behind potholes and gravel. "The gravel on this stretch causes vehicles to skid. As a result, during rush hours, the movement of vehicles is quite slow, causing long traffic jams throughout the day," complains Syed Aejaz, who regularly uses the road to commute home from his workplace.

Just a short distance from this stretch, at Bazaar Ghat junction, the road conditions are even more appalling. Large craters have formed on the roads and when it pours, they get inundated and become water-filled traps. "When the two-wheelers land into these huge potholes, the riders are at a risk of falling. The roads got severely damaged due to recent excavation works, which are yet to be completed," says Mohd Younus, a trader from Red Hills.

The situation is not much different at the nearby Habeebnagar junction where the road has been badly damaged and is full of potholes. "The road's condition has deteriorated significantly following the rains. Driving through this main road riddled with potholes and stagnant rainwater is a back-breaking exercise for all of us," points out Kunal Singh, a resident of Afzal Sagar. The condition of the main road at Dhoolpet Excise office, Bhoiguda Kaman, Aghapura junction, Puranapul Jiyaguda, Mohd Shukoor Kaman Fateh Darwaza, Misrigunj and Jahanuma are no different. At Jahanuma and Fateh Darwaza, there is no road at all and only long and deep craters are visible. "If authorities can't take up permanent repair works, at least they can do some temporary patch-up works, which will go a long way in providing some relief for us. Instead of taking such temporary relief works, the municipal authorities appear to have completely abandoned us," is the common refrain from the general public.

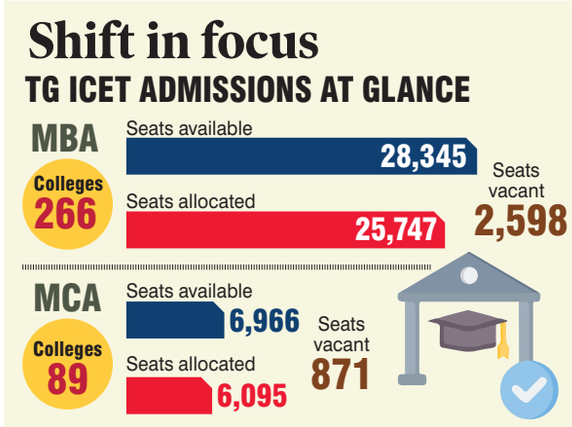
Road conditions in Secunderabad too fare no better! Due to rains, major road stretches at several locations including Rasoolpura, Gopalapuram, Secunderabad railway station, Ramgopalpet, Ranigunj, Monda Market, Indira Park, Ashok Nagar, Musheerabad, Ramnagar Gundu and Adikment areas are badly damaged.

Making life even more difficult for the commuters is the fact that the interior colony roads, that feed traffic to the main roads, too are bruised and battered. As a result of potholes, water gets stagnant in these colonies, leading to massive traffic jams even in the interior parts of Secunderabad. "Driving on the roads in Regimental Bazaar is a horrible experience with too many potholes. The bumpy rides take a toll on health. It is scary for the senior citizens," pointed out Surya Anand, a commuter. Adding to the problems, are the non-functional street lights and piled up garbage that carpets the roads and makes them slippery. "Due to inadequate lighting on the roads, people are at the risk of accidents," complained a road user.

Nearly 2,600 MBA seats vacant after counselling

MCA admissions in 89 colleges no different

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad



A staggering 2,598 MBA seats remained vacant after the Telangana Integrated Common Entrance Test (TG ICET) 2024 final phase seat allotment on Tuesday, reflecting the general lack of interest among students to pursue management programmes in State colleges.

For the academic year 2024-25, as many as 28,345 seats were up for grabs in 266 MBA colleges. Of the total, 25,747 seats were allotted after the final phase of allotment, leaving 2,598 seats vacant.

Interestingly, seats in the university campus and constituent colleges too were left vacant. A total of 65 out of 1,639 seats in 21 colleges were unallocated. However, with 2,529 seats, the highest number of vacant seats was in 243 private management colleges, while two private universities saw 97.8 per cent out of 184 seats being allotted.

The MCA admissions in 89 colleges in the State were no different. As many as 871 seats with a majority of 855 seats in 74 private colleges remained unallocated after the final phase of admission. In addition, 16 seats in 15 university colleges were not allocated. According to the information released by the Technical Education Department, 71,647 candidates qualified for the TG ICET 2024 and 39,647 got their certificates verified.

However, 22,153 students exercised web options seeking seat allotment. Overall, 28,345 MBA seats were available in 266 management colleges across the State and 25,747 seats were released for students who participated in the web-based counselling. Similarly, out of 6,966 MCA seats in 89 colleges, 6,095 seats were allotted. A total of 99 colleges saw 100 per cent seat allotments this time.

Those who received seat allotment have to self-report online via the website https://tgicet.nic.in/ and pay the tuition fee on or before September 27, failing which the provisional seat allotment order stands automatically cancelled. Self-reported candidates should also report at the respective college on or before September 28.

TGCSB nabs cyber crook

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) arrested a man who had illegally transferred Rs 20.18 lakh from three different bank accounts over a while.

Mohammed Asif Pasha, along with Jahangir, had allegedly siphoned the amount from three bank accounts belonging to a woman Sabiha Sultana, and her deceased brother Samiuddin. Jahangir had previously worked with Samiuddin and was aware that two of his accounts were operational and were linked to a particular phone number and the same SIM number was used by Sabiha. The police tracked down Asif and arrested him while Jahangir went into hiding.

Bumpy ride for road users on NH-65

Potholes on the NH-65 in Sangareddy district — Photo: Sathish Kumar

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

The damaged National Highway-65, which connects Hyderabad to Mumbai, poses many problems for road users in Sangareddy district. The highway which covers over 80 km in the district, is dotted with innumerable potholes.

The NH stretch enters the district at Lingampally and passes through Patancheru, Sangareddy, Sadasivapet, and Zaheerabad towns apart from touching many villages en route. According to NHAI officials, at least one lakh vehicles traverse this road every day. Due to recent rains, the road has been completely damaged leading to many accidents. Two-wheeler riders using the road during the night are at greater risk as they fail to notice the potholes. Things get worse when it rains as the potholes get filled with water. Speaking to Telangana Today, a two-wheeler rider J Sanganna said motorists find it difficult to ride on the pothole-ridden road at night. He urged the highway authorities to fill the potholes and undertake road repairs for the safety of road users.

Flyers confused over TG liquor rules

C ROMEO
Hyderabad

Travellers flying into Hyderabad, both on domestic and international flights, are grappling with confusion over Telangana's excise rules on carrying liquor. Passengers arriving at the RGIA are frequently caught unawares of the quantity of alcohol they are permitted to carry, leading to penalties, confiscation and growing frustration.

Excise officials say as per local law, no liquor is to be carried into the State by domestic passengers and for international passengers, only 2 liters is permissible. Under Telangana's excise rules, an individual is legally permitted to possess up to 6 liters of liquor for personal use within the State. This relatively high limit compared to other States is often leading to misunderstandings among passengers, especially those arriving from abroad or other Indian States with stricter alcohol laws.

For domestic travellers arriving in Hyderabad, the rules vary depending on the point of departure and the airline's regulations. The DGCA allows passengers to carry up to 5 liters of liquor in checked-in baggage on domestic flights, with no allowance for alcohol in hand baggage. This guideline, however, often leads to confusion when passengers assume that they can carry up to the 6-litre limit set by Telangana's Excise Department. However, the department officials say as per local laws, no liquor is permitted from other States into Telangana by domestic passengers. "Not even a single liter can be carried by domestic passengers who come into Hyderabad from other States," said a senior official.

Meanwhile, passengers arriving in Hyderabad on international flights face additional confusion regarding duty-free alcohol allowances. The Customs Act of India permits international travellers to bring 2 liters of duty-free alcohol into the country. This includes wine, beer and spirits. However, Telangana's excise rules still apply once passengers clear customs. If they wish to carry additional liquor beyond duty-free limit, it must comply with State's excise cap of 6 liters.

Many passengers arriving from countries with cheaper alcohol prices are often unaware that their purchases beyond the 2-liter duty-free limit must be declared and may be subjected to fines or confiscation. "As per rules, an international passenger is permitted to carry only 2 litres or two bottles. As it falls under foreign goods category and as per Centre's rules, we do not stop them. Anything in excess, it's illegal as per local excise laws," the official said. Consequences may include seizure of excess alcohol, fines, and in severe cases, legal action.

Govt to hire DSC 2008 B.Ed candidates on contract

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government decided to engage DSC 2008 B.Ed candidates on contractual services in erstwhile districts. During the DSC 2008, several candidates were affected as a 30 per cent quota for Secondary Grade Teachers (SGT) posts was provided exclusively to candidates with the DEd qualification.

The School Education Department said it identified an erstwhile district list of affected DSC 2008 BEd candidates. A prescribed verification form has been made available on www.schooledu.telangana.gov.in for download.

Candidates have been asked to fill out the verification form, giving their consent and submit the same along with all relevant documents to the erstwhile district educational officer concerned from September 27 to October 5.

Space shuttle in Tintin cartoon series inspired me: ISRO chief

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Minister J Krishna Rao, ISRO chairman Dr S Somanath and cartoonist Mrityunjay at Ravindra Bharathi on Tuesday.

Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation Dr S Somanath said that creativity had no limits, even in space, and encouraged everyone to strive for excellence in their chosen fields.

Delivering his speech at a unique space-themed cartoon exhibition titled 'Space Toon', organised at Ravindra Bharathi by the Telangana Language and Cultural Department, Telugu Region Malayali Association, and the Hyderabad Forum for Political Cartoonists, Dr Somnath recalled that he used to draw cartoons when he was young and had always admired the humour embedded in cartoons. The ISRO Chairman specifically mentioned how he was fascinated by the space shuttle depicted in the famous Tintin cartoon series, which inspired his love for space. Later, Dr Somanath also interacted with students and answered questions related to space research.

Jupally Krishna Rao, Tourism and Culture Minister, Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary (Education and BC Welfare), Mamidi Harikrishna, Director, Language and Cultural, Liby Benjamin, Chairman of CTRMA, TEDS and CLIC; Sudheer Nath, Chairman of the Kerala Cartoon Academy; Shankar, president, Hyderabad Forum for Political Cartoonists, Mrityunjay, Secretary and cartoonists Subhani, Narsim, Venkatesh, Rakesh, and others were present.

Pvt college managements to intensify stir

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

With the State government delaying the release of arrears related to fee reimbursement, the private colleges in Telangana State have decided to intensify their protests. The managements of the private colleges offering intermediate, degree, engineering, pharmacy B.Ed, nursing, paramedical, and PG programmes will soon form a joint action committee to take the protests forward.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, the college owners urged the State government to release Rs 1,200 crore out of Rs 6,500 crore, as Dasara gift to the colleges. They said banks had served notices on 90 colleges and were not providing them with loans. The managements accused the government of negligence in releasing fee reimbursement arrears.

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ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR M.TECH UNDER CATEGORY-B AY: 2024-25

Application form can be downloaded from **www.avniet.ac.in** or can be obtained from College Office on any working day between 10 AM and 4 PM. Filled in application form should reach the college office on or before 4 PM of **04-10-2024**. Please note that the Category-B admissions are made as per rules and regulations of the Govt. of Telangana and subject to approval of TGCHE.

Course	Intake	B-Category
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING	24	07
VLSI & EMBEDDED SYSTEMS	12	03
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	12	03
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS	24	07

Sd/-
CHAIRMAN
AVN Group of Institutions

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. S.Harminder Singh, S/o. S.Jagjeevan Singh, Age: 50 years, Occ: Private Employee, R/o. H.No. 19-2-369/6/A, 273/SRT, Chandulal Baradari Colony, Near Water Filter, Hyderabad-64 is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property from its owner Sri Bikshapathy Nagula, S/o. N.Anjaneyulu, Aged about 41 years, Occupation: Business, R/o. House No. 2-47/10/60/P, Cape Town-I, Ootpally Village, Shamshabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District-501 218 and paid substantial portion of consideration amount. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within Seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my clients will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the Farm Land bearing No. 2, Admeasuring 500 Sq.yards or 418 Sq.mtrs., in Survey Nos. 86 & 87, Situated at "BEAUTY WORLD, PHASE-III" in SULTANPALLI VILLAGE and Grampanchayat, Shamshabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State and bounded as follows: NORTH: Farm Land No. 1, SOUTH: Farm Land No. 3, EAST: Farm Land No.14, WEST: Road.

Sd/- AARTI SHANKPAL, Advocate
Address: Block B4, Flat No. 402,
Indu Aranya Pallavi Apts., Bandlaguda,
Nagole-500 068
aartishankpal@gmail.com
Mobile: 9885162435, TS/1178/2017.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby informed that my client, Padakanti Ramesh S/o. P.Krishna Murthy, aged about 51 years, Occ: Business, R/o. H.No.1-35/4, Ganesh Nagar Colony, Kuntloor Village, Abdullapurmet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District-501505, has lost Sale Deed Doc. No. 329 of 2018 dated 09-01-2018 in favour of P.Ramesh executed by Gurram Yadamma and registered at SRO Hayathnagar. My client is absolute owner of House No. 1-98/1, (Assmt No.1176013971), on Plot No.57 and 58, admeasuring 487 Sq.yds., having plinth area of 100 Sft., situated at Old Village of Kuntloor Village, Abdullapurmet Revenue Mandal, under Pedda Amberpet Municipality, Ranga Reddy District, and bounded by: North: Plot Nos.54 & 55; South: 20 ft Wide Road; East: Neighbours Land; West: 25 ft Wide Road; having acquired through Gift Deed Doc. No. 3500 of 2024 dated 29-06-2024 executed by Padakanti Agasthya and registered at SRO Hayathnagar.
Therefore If any person/s, Financial Institutions, having any kind of claim, objections, interest or right over the above mentioned property hereby required to make the same known in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned, within 7 days from the date of publication here off, anybody finds the same may be handover to me.

Sd/- K.RAJANI, Advocate
H.No. 16-113, Flat No.101,
SaiVihar Residency, New Mirjalguda,
Malkajgiri-500047
Cell No. 9393099916/9700022422

In Brief

KHAMMAM

Water released for NSP canal

Water to agriculture fields under NSP aya-cut was released after a gap of nearly 22 days as the NSP left the canal at Mallaigudem in Kusumanchi mandal suffered a breach on September 1 due to heavy rains and floods. It might be noted that there has been a delay in repairing breached canal. Farmers and farmers associations have staged protests over the delay as well as alleged indifferent attitude of irrigation officials and the District Ministers in taking up repairs. Former Minister T Harish Rao took serious exception to the failure of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao in completing repair works.

'Maoists lost base in State'

They will not be allowed to revive activities: DGP

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Director General of Police (DGP) Telangana Dr Jitender on Tuesday said the CPI (Maoist) lost its base in Telangana with no scope left to revive its activities in the State. "They keep trying to revive their activities in Telangana because the movement started here. So sometimes they come to Telangana State from neighbouring Chhattisgarh where they are presently active. But whenever they cross into Telangana State, they invariably come across a police party and we all know what happens when they come across a police party," the DGP said while interacting with press persons.

The Maoists kill people for various reasons and later label them as 'police informers', he said. "There have been instances where Maoists have killed their own people, who tried to leave the group, and then branded them as police informers. Moreover, the people of Telangana State are not at all supporting the Maoists in their activities," the DGP said.

Telangana DGP Dr Jitender addressing the media on Tuesday.

Dr Jitender further said that coordinated efforts and round-the-clock monitoring ensured that the Ganesh festival and Milad-un-Nabi celebrations passed off peacefully in the State without major incidents. The police had deployed personnel from various units including trainee Sub-Inspectors and constables for the bandobast. "A total of 1,36,638 idols were immersed across the State under the watchful eyes of the police. All precautionary measures were taken and the situation was closely monitored throughout the 11 days to ensure peace prevailed," the DGP said. He said a round-the-clock control room was set up at the DGP office at Lakdikapul and senior officials including Additional Director General (Law and Order) Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat monitored the immersion. "Around 12,500 trainee Sub-Inspectors and constables were deployed for first-hand experience of the bandobast," he said.

Dr Jitender said 300 processions were taken out in the State for Milad-un-Nabi and no major untoward incident took place.

Pharmacist posts: BRS criticises MHSRB

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Senior BRS leader Dr R S Praveen Kumar on Tuesday criticised the Telangana State Medical and Health Services Recruitment Board (TSMHSRB) for releasing a partial notification to fill 633 posts of pharmacists in the State Health Department. Dr Praveen Kumar questioned MHSRB for not sharing the exact break-up of category-wise reservations for eligible candidates in each zone. "It is good that the MHSRB has issued a notification for 633 posts of pharmacists. But, what is the point of releasing a defective notification with so many loopholes? Why can't the MHSRB release the exact category-wise reservation of candidates based on zones?" Praveen Kumar posted on social media platform X.

Out of the 633 pharmacist vacancies, a total of 446 vacancies are in Director of Public Health (DPH), 185 vacancies in Telangana Vaidya Vidhan Parishad (TVVP) and 2 in MNJ Cancer Hospital. Online applications will be available from October 5 and the last to submit the same is 5 pm, October 21, 2024.

For details one may visit: (https://mhsrb.telangana.gov.in)

SINGARENI MINERS ALLEGE INJUSTICE

Members of the Telangana Boggu Karmika Sangham staging a protest demanding fair share of bonus, in Godavarikhani, Peddapalli on Tuedsay.

Govt to survey Musi riverfront encroachments

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government will conduct a detailed survey of the Musi riverfront encroachment and collect details of eligible poor living in the Musi catchment area, along with those encroaching tanks and nalas in Hyderabad. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to either allot double-bedroom houses or provide alternative housing for those eligible.

During a review meeting here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister discussed the Musi Riverfront Development and the expansion of Hyderabad Metro Rail. He emphasised the need for strict surveillance and protection of water bodies in Hyderabad from further encroachment. To prevent future floods, he wanted the officials to install CCTV cameras at all major water bodies and link them to the Command Control Centre for constant monitoring to prevent encroachments.

Revanth Reddy instructed officials to submit a detailed report on all ponds, lakes, and drains within the Outer Ring Road, along with their full tank levels (FTL) and buffer zones. A full-scale report on the encroachments of these areas was ordered.

On the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion, the Chief Minister wanted rapid progress, particularly on the Old City Metro route. He asked officials to resolve land acquisition and other obstacles, stressing the need to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Metro expansion, from the airport to the upcoming Future City, to the Centre before Dasara.

AEOs say they are 'overburdened'

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs) have demanded the State government to carry out the proposed digital crop survey only after appointing village agriculture assistants (VAA) on the lines of appointments done in Andhra Pradesh.

While the State government was preparing to carry out a digital crop survey, the AEOs met the Sangareddy District Agriculture Officer K Shivaprasad on Tuesday urging him to take their issues to the notice of the State government. In their representation, the AEOs said each AEO in the State was covering 6,500 acres spread across five to six villages on average. Since they were taking care of the implementation of Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, crop loan waiver, PM Kisan, enumeration of crop loss and compensation apart from carrying out the extension activities, the AEOs said carrying out the digital crop survey would be a tough task for them in the existing setup.

The officers said many of them were suffering from depression due to work overload.

AARI exclusive offers on bike models

The QJ Motors range is offering SRC 250 model, which was originally priced at Rs 1.79 lakh, for Rs 1.49 lakh.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Adishwar Auto Ride India Private Limited (AARI) is gearing up for the festive season with exclusive offers on its popular QJ Motor and Moto Morini models. The noted automobile dealer on Tuesday announced exciting deals to make premium motorcycling more accessible, allowing enthusiasts to ride into the celebrations with style and savings, a press release stated.

The QJ Motors range is offering SRC 250 model, which was originally priced at Rs 1.79 lakh, for Rs1.49 lakh, with a total benefit of Rs 30,000. Customers can also avail savings of Rs 40,000 on SRC 500 model, which was now available for Rs 1.99 lakh. The QJ Motor lineup, including the SRC 250, SRC 500, SRV 300, and SRK 400, now start from Rs 1.49 lakh.

The Italian marquee, Moto Morini is offering the X-Cape 650 (Tourer) for Rs 5.99 lakh, with savings of Rs 1.31 lakh. The X-Cape 650X (Adventure) is also being offered at just Rs 6.49 lakh with a total savings of Rs 1.06 lakh. The Moto Morini range includes 4 models in the 650cc range, including the Seiemmezzo Retro Street and Scrambler, alongside the X-Cape 650 and X-Cape 650X.

Protest against Vijaya Dairy

ADILABAD: Farmers are up in arms against Vijaya Telangana Dairy accusing it of delaying payment of bills relating to milk sold to the State-owned dairy for two months. Officials said that 3,116 farmers contribute nearly 8,000 litres of milk to Vijaya Telangana Dairy in several parts of the erstwhile Adilabad district every day.

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CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GANDIKOTA NARESH S/o GANDI KOTA LINGAIAH R/o H No. 12-15-222, Manikeshwari Nagar, O U Compus, Secunderabad, Hyderabad Telangana-500007 have changed the name of my minor daughter GANDIKOTA DITHYA SREE DINANYA aged 4 years and she shall hereafter be known as **GANDIKOTA GYAANA SREE.** [TT-11470]

I, PRIYANKA KUMARI R/o.P.No. 33, Margadarshini Cly, Rasoolpura Sec'bad Hyderabad -3.TS. Changed My Name As **PRIYANKA AGARWAL** W/o. AKUL AGARWAL [TT-8146]

I, KOLLU SHAILAJA W/o. MALLELA PRAVEEN R/o. F. No 214, Block-2, Praneeth Pranav Townsquare, Bachupalle, Cy' bad-Medchal TS. 500090, Changed My Name As **MALLELA SHAILAJA.** [TT-8146]

I, ABDUL REHMAN MOHAMMED S/o. MOHAMMED NAVEED UDDIN. R/o.19-2-25/A/2, Sattar Bagh, Misri gunj Hyd.TS. Changed my Name As **ABDUL RAHMAN MOHAMMED.** [TT-8146]

I, MOHAMMED ANWAR S/o. Mohammed Hassan R/o.H.No.2-22, Pahadi Shareef, Ranga Reddy Dist TS. Changed My Name As **HAIK ANWAR** S/o.Shaik Hassan. [TT-8146]

I, LATHIFA BEGUM R/o. 1-4-515/11/A, Sailani Baba Colony, Kamareddy- Mdl, Kamareddy District-503111, TS. Changed My Name As **MOHAMMED LATHIFA BEGUM** W/o.Mohammed Sadeq. [TT-8146]

I, FAISAL BIN TALIB BAMUKRA R/o.18-12-419/C/1251, Hafez Baba Nagar Bandlaguda Hyd- 500058 TS My Mother Name As **BARKA TALEB BA MUKRA** Changed to BARKA BEGUM [TT-8146]

I, POGU SAAMAYA NETHA, S/o. POGU SOMAIAH, R/o.Plot No.62, Jaya Nilayam, Gayathri Nagar, Near Godavari Homes, Quthbullapur Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri-Dist, Hyderabad-500067, Telangana, I State That my name was wrongly recorded as POGU SAMMAIAH, in my Passport K3166586, But my Actuall and correct name Shall henceforth be Known as **POGU SAAMAYA NETHA** [TT-11213]

I, Allaparthi Nagà Malika R/o.12-2-50/C, J P Nagar, Near Swarnanjali School, Bharath Nagar Colony, Moosapet, Cyberabad, Hyd-500018, T.S. Changed My Name As **Reddim Naga Malika** W/o. Allaparthi Suresh Babu. [TT-11470]

DHANYATA MOHANTY, D/O. Laxmidhar mohanty, R/O. HYDERSHAHKOTE, T.S, hyd -91, Have change my name as **HRITVIKAA MOHANTY.** [TT-8260]

I, MANE SANJEEVAKUMAR (Aadhar) S/o. PEERAJI, R/o.2-578/1, old Hafeezpet, Miyapur, RR-500049, TG.have mentioned in the SSC has my name **SANJEEVAKUMAR** both names of one & same person.For Future purpose. [TT-8260]

I, Sravanthi Devi R/o Plot. 472, Flat. no.202, Sri Sai Chandra Nivas, Matrusri Nagar, Miyapur, RR dist-500049, changed my name from **Sravanthi Devi to Sravanthi Devi Vetukuri,** W/o Rajesh Varma Gottumukkala. [TT-8260]

I, SUBRAMANIAM PENTAIAH R/o. 3-2-241, SOMA SUNDARAM STREET, Sec'bad Hyd-500003 TS. Changed My Name to **SUBRAMANIAM BOGHRA** S/o. PENTAIAH NARAHARI [TT-8148]

I, PENTAIAH VANITHA R/o. 3-2-241, SOMA SUNDARAM STREET, Sec'bad Hyd-500003 TS. Changed My Name As **VANITHA BOGHRA** W/o. SUBRAMANIAM BOGHRA [TT-8148]

I, PENTAIAH LALITHA R/o. 3-2-241, SOMA SUNDARAM STREET, Sec'bad Hyd-500003 TS Changed My Name to **LALITHA BOGHRA** W/o. PENTAIAH NARAHARI [TT-8148]

I, Syed Rasool Resident Of 12-2-341/5/B, Murad Nagar, Syed Ali Guda , Hyd - 500028 , TS. Changed My Name As **Syed Rasool Ahmed** S/o. Late Syed Yaseen [TT-8148]

I NADAF NAZEER AHMED (Old name), H.NO: 2-22-19, CHILKA NAGAR, UPPAL, HYDERABAD. Hence changed my name as **NADAF NAZEER AHMED BADESAB S/o. NADAF BADESAB MEEYASAB (New name)** [TT-8148]

I, Ahmedi Sultana W/o Mirza Mahmood Ali Baig R/o:17-1-372/A/2,Dargah Barhana Shah Sahab, Santosh Nagar, Hyderabad Has Changed My Name as **AHMADI SULTHANA** [TT-8149]

I, Mukarram Ali Khan R/o: 19-2-11-111, Dophadshawale ke Dargah, Hyderabad,T.S has Changed My Daughter's Name from **JUWAIRIA KHAN to JUWAIRIA MUKARRAM KHAN** [TT-8149]

I, Mohsin Ali Khan S/o Hayath Ali Khan R/o:16-3-472/6/C, Chanchalguda, Malakpet, Saidabad Hyd-24,T.S.Has Changed My Name as **MOHSIN KHAN** [TT-8149]

I, Mohammed Azeez S/o Mohammed Hameed R/o:18-7-425/88/8, Bhavani Nagar,Talabkatta, Charminar, Hyderabad,T.Shas Changed My Name as **MOHAMMED AZIZ** [TT-8149]

I, E vanisree Hno 3-29-126/1/b Saraswathi nagar lothukunta 500015- Hyderabad district TS Changed My Name **Singam Vani sri** D/o. E HANUMANTHA Rao [TT-8149]

I, Ningagalla Rani R/o 9-10,Tellapur,R C puram, Ramachandrapuram, Sangareddy-32,T S changed my name as **Ningagalla umarani W/o. Ningagalla Yadaiah** [TT-8149]

I, Najamuddin Farooqui Rizwan S/o. Mohammed Omar Farooqui, R/o.18-13-8/A/14/7, Wadi-E-Farhan, Bandlaguda, Chandrayangutta, Hyderabad, 500005, T.S, Changed My Name As **"NAJAMUDDIN FARUQI RIZWAN"** [TT-8149]

I, SHANKER PRASAD, S/o. Late Pandit Satyanarayan, R/o. H.No. 13-3-854, Mahankali Temple, Jiyaduda, Hyderabad, T.S. I have Changed My Name from SHANKER PRASAD to SHANKAR PRASAD. My New Name **SHANKAR PRASAD,** S/o. Late Satyanaran for all purpose. [TT-335828]

LOST

I, Kambhampati Kasthurnadh, S/o Kambhampati Rajendra Prasad R/o.5-2-340 Plot No.9, Bank Colony, Gayathri Nagar, Vanasthalipuram. I Lost My Passport No: G1941486 Lost My Passport During House Shift On Date 20-09-2024. If Found Cont: **9885716987.** [TT-8306]

I, TULSI DHAR, D/o ROOP KISHEN DHAR, R/o. H NO 1-1- 385/9/1 FLAT NO 201 SRI LAXMI CHAKRA APTS, GANDHI NAGAR, SECUNDRABAD HYD TS STATE-. THAT I LOST MY ORIGINAL PASSPORT BEARING NO. G7836272, LOST ON 18-09-2024, AT SHAMSHABAD BUS STOP AREA, IF ANY **FOUND PLEASE CALL: 9849673591** [TT-335828]

I, MIR SATTAR ALI KHAN, S/o. Mir Sardar Ali Khan, R/o. H.No.18-8-450/14, Raza Nagar, Edi Bazar, Hyderabad, TS. the Original Passport bearing No.S6458845, date of issue 09/10/2018 , Place of issue: Hyderabad, has been lost by me while I was Travelling from: Raza Nagar to Edi Bazar Road, on 23/09/2024 and inspite of my best efforts if anybody Found pls **Contact - 7989496766** [TT-8148]

I, SARA FATIMA, W/o. MIR MUJTABA ALI, R/o. 20-4-656, Shahgunj, Opp Silky Ice Cream, Mahboob Chowk, Hyderabad -500 002 TG, I have Lost My Passport Bearing No. B5177997, Date of issue. 21-03-2001, issue At HYD, During house shifting to neighboring area, from H. No. 20-4-928/B, Mahboob Chowk, Taghari Naka, Hussaini Alam, during January 2023. if anybody Found pls **Contact - 9963635508** [TT-8148]

I, VARALAKSHMI TUMULURI W/o. Devi Shri Charan Reddy, R/o H no. 9-2/10, Ektha Highland Park, Puppalaguda, Manikonda, Gandipet (M),R.R. Dist.,T.S.I Lost my original Sale Deed Doct.No:1417 of 1997, SRO Shamirpet. While Shifting the House. If Anyone found **Pls call: 9949541114** [TT-8149]

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED HABEEB SHAIK, S/o. Abdul Kadir Shaikh, R/o. H.No. 1-15/F32, Kargil Colony, Kodangal, Vikarabad Dist., T.S. My Name is mentioned in Aadhar Card as MOHAMMED HABEEB SHAIK, S/o. Abdul Kadir Shaikh and Pan Card as MOHAMMED HABEEB SHAIK, S/o. Abdul Kadir Shaikh and Passport as MOHD HABEEB KADIR SHAIKH, S/o. Abdul Kadir Shaikh. All Names are belongs to me and one and same.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KOTHUR ASHA DEVI, 69 Years, W/o. Kotla Bhagavanth Reddy, R/o. Flat No. 401, Mothe Apt., H.No. 3-4-857, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027. Changed My Name to K.ASHAMMA.

PASSPORT LOST

I, PALLE HARSHA VARDHAN GOUD, S/o. Palle Somalingam Goud, Age: 17 Years, R/o. 1-125/1, Jeedimetla Suchitra, Medchal-Malkajgiri District. I have Lost My New Original Passport No: C2021499 while travelling to Boudha Nagar to Vennelagadda Suchitra from My premises starting Jeedimetla by Bike on 21-09-2024. If anybody found, Contact: **9703819966**

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I, AVELI MANGALA GOWRI, W/o. Damodar Aveli, R/o. 1-1-152/GC/201, Green City Colony, Rajendra Nagar, Ranga Reddy District-500 030. I would like to inform that have been Lost of property Original Documents bearing No. 4179/1996, Dt. 03-12-1996, 4178/1996, Dt. 03-12-1996, 4174/1996, Dt. 03-12-1996 and No. 108/2007, Dt. 28-09-2007. Within 7 Days from the Date of advertisement if found, please Contact the above Address Mobile. No. **9100560314, 7702051111**

LOST

I, AKULA ANIL SRINIVAS, S/o. Late Akula Krishna, Aged 54 Yrs., Occ: Advocate, R/o. 8-1-68/44, Vinayak Nagar Colony, Shaikpet, Hyd-104. Would like to inform the General Public that I have Lost/Misplaced My Original Registration Certificate (RC) of My Innova Vehicle bearing No. AP 28 CF 5688 [INNOVA 2.5V (M4) BSIV 7STR]. If anyone finds the RC, please Contact to this number: **9705013649**

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PUBLIC & COURT NOTICE & CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISEMENTS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general are here by informed that Sri Katukam Sreenivas, S/o. Narsaiah, has approached my client i.e., A.P. Grameena Vikas Bank, Branch: Gajwel for sanction and release of loan and offered his property i.e., Plot bearing No. 6, admeasuring 126.50 Sq.yards in Sy.No. 132/E, situated at Mutrajpally Village of Gajwel Mandal, Siddipet District, cover under Registered Sale Deed No. 7457/2019 of SRO Gajwel and further informed that one of the Link Document bearing No. 2873/ 1993 of S.R.O. Gajwel was lost beyond recovery. In this connection the public are informed to submit objections if any within 5 days of this publication to me for mortgaging the above property in favour of my client-bank. If no objections are received within the above stipulated time, it shall be deemed that there are no objections and my client-bank will proceed further. Later no objections will be entertained.

Sd/- **G.KALI PRASAD,**
Advocate
Gajwel, District Siddipet,
Cell No. 9440493461.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that my clients **1. Mr. PRITESH LODAYA,** S/o. Laher Chand Lodaya and **2. Mrs. POONAM LODAYA,** W/o. Mr. Pritesh Lodaya, Both R/o. H.No. 3-4-19 and 19/1, Flat No. 201, Block-B, HSR Dr. Bhoomanna Enclave, Barkathpura, Himayathnagar, Kachiguda, Hyderabad, T.S. have entered in to Agreement of Sale with **Mrs. BANOOR VIJAYA @ B.VIJAYA,** W/o. Mr. Banoor Balaiah, R/o. H.No. 16-11-1/5/8/C, Saleem Nagar Colony, Malakpet, Hyderabad, T.S. to purchase all that the **PREMISES BEARING MUNICIPAL Nos. 15-2-184, 15-2-184/1/1, 15-2-184/2 to 15-2-184/12 and 15-2-184/12/1,** admeasuring **120.15 Square yards** or equivalent to 100.46 Square Meters with a built up area of Ground, First and Second Floors of 3200 Sq.Fts., situated at **"MAHARAJGUNJ", HYDERABAD, TELANGANA STATE** and bounded as follows: **NORTH:** Road to Gowliguda Telephone Exchange, **SOUTH:** Neighbour's House No. 15-2-183, **EAST:** Lane, **WEST:** Road to Maharajgunj and paid substantial amount towards advance and part sale consideration.

If any person/persons or any financial institutions have got any claim, interest or right over the said property, or objection to the above said Agreement of Sale, may put forth his/her/their claim or objection of whatsoever before the under signed within One Week from the date of publication of this notice along with the necessary supporting documents. And if no objections or claims are received within the stipulated period of (7) days my client will proceed with the Registration of the regular Sale Deed treating that there are no objections or claims. And claims or objections put forth after the stipulated period of (7) days will not be entertained or they cannot bind my client in any way.

M.RAJA BABU, Advocate
Flat No. 301, III Floor,
Sravanthi Blue Bells Apts.
Gafoor Nagar, Madhapur,
Hyderabad-500 081,
9848062047.
Dt: 22-09-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client Smt. GUDURU SANDHYA, W/o. Sri Guduru Sandeep Reddy. Lost the Original Sale Deed (Link Document) bearing Document No. 896/1995, Dated 28-01-1995, Registered at SRO Uppal. Pertaining to Open land of Plot bearing No. 1376 in Survey Nos. 6 & 7, Known as Kancha Salarjung, admeasuring area 200.00 Square Yards, situated at SAI PRIYA NAGAR erstwhile Parvathapur Village & Gram Panchayath, Ghatkesar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District now under Medipally Mandal Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, while travelling by Bus from Ghatkesar to Medipally on Dated 17-06-2024, I request the General Public to handover the said Original Sale Deed either to me or my client it any one found it and I also warn in general that if anybody misuses the said Original Document, they will be prosecuted/punished under the law of land and my client will not be held responsible for any transactions that are done by miscreant and will not be binding on her.

JAKKULA UMAMAHESWAR RAO,
Advocate
H.No. 8-480/A/1, Road No. 1,
Sai Priya Nagar, Medipalli Mandal,
Parvathapur (V),
Medchal-Malkajgiri-500 098,
Cell Nos. 9030000804.

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients i.e., **Mr. YOUNUS KHAN, S/o. Mr. YOUSUF KHAN,** R/o. H.No. 13-5-287/1, Taleem Amlapur, Karwan, Hyderabad-T.S. is in intending to purchase the schedule property from **Smt. B.VIJAYA LAKSHMI, W/o. LATE B.BALESHA YADAV,** R/o. H.No. 13-6-438/A/108/4, Satyanarayan Nagar Colony, Gudimalkapur, Asif Nagar Mandal, Hyderabad-T.S. **(vide Advance Agreement of Sale Dt: 22-08-2024).**

If any person(s) Bank/Financial institution or any other organization has/haye any claim or interest over the schedule property, he/she/it shall contact me with all the documentary support within (7) days failing which my client shall presume that the schedule property is free from any encumbrances and any claims/sale deed thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

ALL that the Part of House Property bearing Municipal No. 13-5-291 and 13-5-287/1/A, admeasuring 163.00 Sq.yards or 136.00 Square meters, situated at Amlapur Karwan, Hyderabad-T.S. and bounded by: NORTH: Part of House No. 13-5-287/1 Sold to others, SOUTH: Neighbour's House, EAST: Neighbours House, WEST: Road.

M/s. S.K. LAW ASSOCIATE
SRI INDRAPAL SINGH and VIDHYA,
Advocate,
Office: Opp: Sithla Mata Temple,
Jumerath Bazar, Puranapool, Road,
Hyderabad-T.S., **Cell: 9391304526.**

Congress in a spot over turncoats

Ruling party trying to distance itself from defectors post High Court notices

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

All the enthusiasm and excitement that was exhibited by the Congress in welcoming the 10 turncoat MLAs into the party fold appear to have fizzled out. The High Court's notices to the 10 turncoat MLAs has now further put the Congress in a spot of bother. After having encouraged defection of BRS MLAs, the party is now trying to distance itself from the MLAs.

The way the Congress handled Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi's presence at the Congress Legislative Party meeting at a private hotel reflects the current situation. Despite the presence of Gandhi, Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiam Srihari at the CLP meeting venue, the Congress leaders made a vain bid to downplay their presence.

Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu even went to the extent of saying that the Serilingampally MLA had come to greet Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the venue as a courtesy. He was here since the venue comes under his constituency limits, the Minister had claimed. But his claims evoked sharp criticism from different sections. While acknowledging the fact that Gandhi was the local MLA, many took to social media and questioned the Congress about the presence of Nagender, Prakash Goud and Kadiam Srihari at the venue.

Now, with the High Court issuing notices to the 10 turncoat MLAs, the Congress has been cornered. The notices were issued following a petition filed by Praja Shanthi Party chief KA Paul seeking disqualification of the MLAs. The bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Sreenivas Rao, also issued notices to the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly and Secretary of the Election Commission of India (ECI), directing them to respond within four weeks. Much is at stake for the Congress and a lot will depend on the MLAs' reply to notices. The Congress think-tank is exploring possibilities and the plan of action to be adopted in the wake of the High Court's notices. It is also learnt that the Congress leadership is more worried about the repercussions of the entire episode in the Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana and other States.

Don't shatter dreams, says KTR

Urges Congress govt to complete medical admission process

BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing party workers in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao found fault with the State government over the delay in completing the medical admissions process for MBBS and BDS courses. With the deadline fast approaching, he urged the Congress-led government to act swiftly to avoid dashing the hopes of aspiring medical students and their families.

"When will the Chief Minister wake up from deep slumber? When will this Congress government complete the medical admissions process?" Rama Rao asked, raising concerns over the ongoing uncertainty.

"The State government must act on a war footing and complete the admissions process within the stipulated deadline. The dreams of parents who hope to see their children become doctors cannot be shattered due to this careless attitude," he added.

In a statement, the BRS working president criticised the Congress government for turning a previously smooth process into chaos, pointing out that medical admissions in Telangana had been conducted without issues for the past decade under the BRS regime. He attributed the delay to the controversial GO 33 issued by the Congress government, unfairly impacting the natives of Telangana by complicating the matter of locality. "The CM owes an apology to the students for bringing in this unnecessary GO and delaying the admissions process. Even though the Supreme Court gave its verdict four days ago, the state government has done nothing to move forward," he pointed out.

Rama Rao also noted that while other States were nearing the final stages of medical admissions, Telangana was yet to initiate the process. He expressed concern over the harm to students and their academic futures if the admission process was not completed by the October 31 deadline.

"If this delay continues, students will suffer immensely. The Congress government's inaction is an unforgivable crime," he said.

Fresh electoral rolls to be prepared for MLC polls

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

With the terms of two Teachers and one Graduates' MLCs from Telangana expiring on March 29 next year, the Election Commission commenced preparations for the upcoming biennial elections. The officials have been instructed to prepare fresh electoral rolls for all three constituencies, with November 1, 2024 as qualifying date.

The three MLCs' terms are expiring in Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' constituency, Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Teachers' constituency and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers' constituency.

On Tuesday, Chief Electoral Officer C Sudharshan Reddy held a video conference with District Election Officers (DEOs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), outlining the steps needed for conducting the elections to fill regular vacancies in the State Legislative Council. He asked the officials to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the ECI in preparing the electoral rolls and complete door-to-door verification by September 30.

Public notice for registration of new electors will be issued on September 30. First re-publication of notice will be on October 16.

TGIIC to set up industrial park at Akkannapet

STATE BUREAU
Siddipet

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Telangana Industrial and Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) would set up an industrial park at Akkannapet. He said the park would come up on 80 acres with Rs 431 crore outlay. It would have agriculture processing industries and would be connected to towns such as Warangal, Karimnagar and Siddipet.

Miners to get bonus on Oct 9

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director N Balram said 33 per cent of the profits made by the company would be distributed as a bonus to the coal workers on October 9.

Balram, who is part of a touring the US, held a review meeting through virtual mode and directed officials to release the bonus by October 9. Ahead of Dasara festivities, the Congress government announced Rs 796 crore as profit share bonus. Each of the 41,835 permanent employees will receive a bonus of Rs 1.9 lakh. Additionally, for the first time, a bonus of Rs 5,000 each will be given to the 25,000 contract employees of the company.

Profit share bonus was paid taking into account the number of working days in the previous fiscal, they said.

Harish demands justice for RRR victims

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Senior BRS leader T Harish Rao with the affected families in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao lashed out at Congress leaders for their unfulfilled promises regarding the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project, demanding justice to the affected farmers and residents in the northern part of the project. He targeted Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, asking them to honour their election promises.

Addressing the victims of RRR project who met him at his residence here on Tuesday, and explained about their grievances, Harish Rao found fault with Priyanka Gandhi for failing to stand by the assurances she gave to the RRR victims during the election campaign. He pointed out that farmers in Choutuppal Municipality and mandal were suffering because of the project's alignment, where only 28 km stretch was being taken up in northern part of RRR, while 40 kilometres were being considered in the southern region.

The former Minister also noted that poor residents were losing their housing and agricultural lands, as well as homes due to the expansion of the junction at Choutuppal from 78 acres to 184 acres.

"The compensation is insufficient, and the affected people are being forced to sign agreements," he added, calling it a Congress-mark betrayal.

Harish Rao reminded the public that Komatireddy Venkat Reddy previously promised to change the road alignment, but was now carrying out surveys of these lands and forcing land owners to give up the land for acquisition. He urged Priyanka Gandhi to intervene and instruct the State government to address the victims' grievance, warning that the BRS party would continue to fight on behalf of the affected farmers if action is not taken.

Mulugu forest incident due to strong wind, rains: Experts

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Scientists from National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) believe that the unusual phenomenon that led to widespread destruction in 332 acres in the Tadvai – Eturnagaram forest areas, with over 50,000 trees being uprooted or destroyed, could be due to strong wind blowing in the area and heavy rainfall due to the concentration of strong clouds in one area.

A workshop was organised on environmental disaster in Tadvai forest area of Eturnagaram wildlife sanctuary in Mulugu district here on Tuesday, in which scientists and experts from NRSC, NARL, NGRI, IMD, NIT Warangal, Kakatiya University professors, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Wildlife Warden, forest officers and, retired officers from Forest Department shared their views on the incident.

> Say due to simultaneous occurrence of a cyclone in two areas, the wind blew at a speed of 130-140 km/hour

The NRSC and NARL scientists said due to the simultaneous occurrence of a cyclone in two areas in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, the wind blew at a speed of 130-140 kilometers per hour and the disaster might have happened due to the strong wind blowing in that area. It was informed that the roots of trees go horizontally instead of deep in the ground due to the rapid growth of trees during August. The incident happened on August 31.

Special attention

PCCF R M Dobriyal asked officials to protect the place from local people, cattle and fire, so that the plant species that grow in the area could be protected. He directed the officials to pay special attention to take measures to prevent weeds in the area where the trees had fallen so that the trees can grow quickly.

Notarised properties can get meters from Discom websites

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Residential houses, apartments and commercial establishments built on notary lands will now be able to get electric meter connections directly from Discom websites.

The Discoms have reportedly decided to provide meters to notarised properties on a special fee structure.

Notarised property transactions are done on a stamp paper attested by a notary advocate instead of actually registering it. This is legally not valid and cannot be transferred to others and even Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation(GHMC) had stopped assessing property tax on such properties a few years ago as people were registering them using property tax receipts.

Currently, the Discom authorities are issuing new connections only to registered structures and notarised properties were not entertained. However, the field staff of the Discoms and brokers used to collect huge sums from people and get them meters by submitting false documents. Consumers having notarised properties in Hyderabad city and other areas had to depend on these brokers in unavoidable situations for getting new connections.

Hence, the Discom managements has reportedly decided to allot new meters to notarised properties, to check illegal allotment of connections. New electricity connections were already being issued to notarised residential properties under the jurisdiction of Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company of Limited (TGSPDCL), the officials said, adding that the people having notarised properties can now get new connections from TGSPDCL official website by following easy instructions at a security deposit of Rs 600.

The notarised documents issue has been there since the 1970s and people have been asking the government to resolve it. Officials said people opted for notarised documents instead of registration to avoid hefty stamp duty for small properties. This issue was more in the Old City, officials said.

'July 2022 floods affected Medigadda'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Engineers and retired experts testified before the Judicial Commission headed by Justice PC Ghose on Tuesday that the July 2022 floods were beyond all expectations and likely a primary cause of the damage to the Medigadda barrage. The heavy floods affected even the cement concrete blocks of the structure. The agencies responsible for implementing the project were informed about the damage caused by the floods. This communication highlighted the need for immediate attention to the affected areas.

The commission inquired about the entities responsible for the project's design and construction. It was told that WAPCOS was entrusted with preparing the designs and drawings for the barrage. Additionally, site studies were conducted by the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal before the construction commenced, ensuring that the project was based on thorough research and analysis.

> Justice PC Ghose panel inquired about entities responsible for the project's design and construction

Justice PC Ghose emphasised the importance of understanding the root cause.

'Exchange of water resources will foster cooperation'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Highlighting the critical need for a paradigm shift in how water resources are perceived and managed in India, MK Sinha, Chairman of the Godavari River Management Board, pointed out that States often fight for water share under the guise of protecting poor populations, while in reality, resources are sometimes siphoned off by wealthier elements.

Delivering the keynote address during G Koti Reddy Endowment Lecture at the Institution of Engineers, Telangana State Centre, he recalled a successful example from 2018 when drought in Maharashtra was mitigated by exchange of power for water with Gujarat. The latter had exchanged water with Madhya Pradesh for cash, and Rajasthan for future water rights.

This inter-state cooperation, facilitated by the Narmada Control Authority, showcased the potential of water deals that help foster greater levels of cooperation between the States in managing resources during times of scarcity. Calling for greater transparency and accountability in water management to ensure that the benefits reach those who need them most, he advocated for the economic packaging of water resources to reflect their true value and scarcity. While water should be adequately priced to promote conservation and efficient use, Sinha underscored the importance of compensating people, particularly farmers and low-income households, to prevent undue financial burden.

Bottle Refund System

He proposed a system where water bottles are charged but refunded upon the return of the plastic bottle. He suggested that irrigation water should be priced to reflect its value, but MSP for crops should be increased. Charging for domestic and industrial water use can promote conservation. However, subsidies for individuals, especially those in low-income brackets, are essential to ensure basic needs are met without financial strain, he stressed.

In Brief

PEDDAPALLI

Police station gets 4th place

The Godavarikhani Town-I police station has secured the fourth place in the State for its petition management system. Out of five police stations selected under the best petition management system across the State, the Godavarikhani station secured fourth place.

The Bellampalli town-I police station in Mancherial zone and Dharmaram police station in Peddapalli zone got the third and fifth places respectively for providing speedy services to the public.

KOTHAGUDEM

10 arrested, ganja seized

Excise police seized 319 kg ganja and arrested 10 smugglers, including a woman and her son in different cases in the district. A statement from Prohibition and Excise Director VB Kamalasan Reddy here on Tuesday said the substance was seized under Bhadrachalam excise police station limits. In a case related to smuggling of 100 kg ganja from Odisha border. A woman Neralla Aparna and her son N Akhil of Kothapalli in Peddapalli district were caught. Aparna's husband Sadaiah was in jail after being arrested in a ganja case.

MAHABUBABAD

Fish truck overturns

Villagers in Maripeda village landed a fresh catch in the middle of a road on Tuesday after a truck carrying live fish overturned and spilled its cargo in the middle of the road. The truck carrying a consignment of live fish was heading towards Warangal from Khammam when it toppled in the middle of the road at Maripeda. The accident caused the fish to land all over the busy road and sparked a looting frenzy among bystanders. On receiving information, police reached the spot and stopped people from looting fish. The incident caused a heavy traffic jam.

Telangana Today
FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

"Our people in Gaza are enduring one of the darkest chapters in modern history. Israel's genocidal war has caused unprecedented loss and humanitarian catastrophe

MOHAMMAD MUSTAFA
Palestine Prime Minister

A female cat has more freedoms than a woman in Afghanistan, A cat may go sit on her front stoop and feel the sun on her face.... A squirrel has more rights than a girl in Afghanistan

MERYL STREEP
Hollywood actor

What is happening with the Railways? Even today, there is news of derailment. The Railways has created a world record in derailments. But nobody says anything"

MAMATA BANERJEE
West Bengal Chief Minister

India, the peacemaker

India has the required diplomatic heft to play the role of a peacemaker in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. This was amply demonstrated during the engagements Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the recent meeting with United States President Joe Biden — all focused on finding a lasting and peaceful resolution to the vexed conflict. Refusing to be caught in a binary choice, India has taken a pragmatic approach throughout the conflict and has been consistently rooting for a negotiated settlement of all disputes and immediate cessation of hostilities.

There has been a growing international expectation that India take a more proactive role in global peace efforts, particularly the Russia-Ukraine war. India is one of the few countries that is engaging both sides of the geopolitical schism over Ukraine — the West as well as the Eurasian leadership. New Delhi's long-held positions on non-alignment and strategic autonomy, which the NDA government has largely carried forward during the war with its abstention votes at the United Nations and refusal to accept western sanctions, help its image as an unbiased and honest mediator. Besides, it is an important voice for the Global South and recently ensured that its G-20 presidency focused on issues like energy and food security that matter to the developing world rather than the war itself. As a result, the increase in India's intake of Russian oil, leading to a six-fold increase in bilateral trade, has been projected as an assertion of its principles rather than profiteering.

> India's balanced approach to international diplomacy positions it as a key player in Russia-Ukraine peace efforts

India's approach to the Russia-Ukraine conflict has been guided by its commitment to peace and dialogue, and its outreach has been multifaceted. Modi's call for peace has been consistent throughout the conflict. In September 2022, during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Uzbekistan, Modi told Putin that the era of wars was over and underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving the crisis. A year later, during his visit to Moscow, he again spoke about the urgent need for peace negotiations, asserting that a solution to the Ukraine conflict was not possible on the battlefield, and that peace talks do not succeed amid bombs, guns and bullets. He also expressed New Delhi's willingness to support peace efforts in all possible ways. During his recent visit to Kyiv where he met Zelenskyy, it was made clear that India was willing to play an active role in promoting peace. India's balanced approach to international diplomacy, with open lines of communication with both Russia and Ukraine, positions it as a key player in potential peace efforts. With the BRICS summit scheduled in Russia's Kazan next month, India is expected to remain at the forefront of diplomatic efforts to mediate peace. National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval's recent meeting with Putin reflects the trust both sides place in India's diplomatic role.

Tragedy of the Commons

Measures for the promotion of fisheries sector are in the right direction but the problem of overfishing persists

Dr AISHWARYA HARICHANDAN

KANHAIYA KUMAR

The fisheries sector, considered the sunrise industry of the Indian economy, recorded the highest average decadal growth of 8.9% (FY 2014–23) among allied sectors under agriculture. With a record-high fish production of 174.45 lakh tonnes in 2023–24, India is the world's second-largest fish-producing nation, accounting for around 8% of the global fish production. This sector employs 30 million people. Under the motto 'Reform-Perform-Transform,' the government aims to further develop the sector as a crucial means of achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Taking this as the context, it is important to identify the threats that this sector faces. One of the serious threats that it encounters is that of overfishing. According to a study by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in 2022, of the total fish stock in India, 4.4% is subject to overfishing, 8.2% is overfished and 0.7% is rebuilding.

Overfishing

Fisheries are self-renewable in nature. Unlike mineral resources, if the marine resources are well managed, their duration is practically unlimited. However, fisheries are susceptible to the tragedy of the commons. This means that everyone in a bid to maximise their utility tends to overuse the common property resource, thereby leading to its exhaustion or degradation. This phenomenon is best explained by the statement "freedom in a common brings ruin to all." With respect to fisheries, the tragedy of the common leads to overfishing. It is necessary to look at how the problem of overfishing can be addressed.

Conventionally, the management of fisheries is done through top-down approaches where the power to make rules is concentrated in the hands of the government. This includes creation of marine reserves, control over times of access, norms of distribution of harvest and restriction on catch. However, all this leads to a "race to fish." Due to control over the time of access and since the supply is constrained, there is an over-investment in fishing vessels. The fishermen try to catch as much as possible during the limited time, leading to the supply being more than the demand.

As a result, there is excess fish in the market which requires adequate processing for it to be sold throughout the year. This leads to high processing costs due to the perishable nature of the harvest and deterioration in the product quality.

Addressing the Problem

The conventional management techniques have not been very successful ie, neither could they conserve the fish stocks nor generate the highest rate of return. In such a scenario, it becomes imperative to look at alternative methods like community-driven and rights-based approaches.

• Community-driven Approach

Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom advocated for participatory bottom-up approaches for the management of the commons. She showed that when natural resources are jointly owned, rules are established for their use in a way that is both economically and ecologically sustainable.

Several fishing communities in India have demonstrated this. For instance, the Ashtamudi Clam Fishery in Kerala faced severe overfishing in the early 1990s, causing the annual catch to drop from 10,000 tonnes to half that amount within two years. In response, local fishers, guided by scientists, implemented sustainable practices: closing the fishery during the peak breeding season, setting a minimum size limit for harvestable clams and banning mechanical fishing. As a result, catches have stabilised at around 10,000 tonnes. In 2014, the Ashtamudi fishery became India's first to receive the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification, boosting market prospects in Europe and the US.

> The importance of fisheries is evident from the fact that SDG 14 specifically talks about conserving and sustainably using the oceans, marine resources

• Rights-based Approach

The broad application of the rights-based management regimes is based on property rights and "limited access privileges" in the ocean, which can provide incentives to resource owners to protect marine resources rather than destroy them. Though only a small fragment of world fisheries has administered the property rights regime till now, it has been triumphant wherever adopted. Its application has led to elevated fishery profits due to the elimination of unnecessary effort in terms of overinvestment in fishing vessels and the elimination of processing costs. It has also ensured a fresh supply of catch in the market year-round, resulting in improved product quality.

The most notable property rights approach is "individual catch share" such as Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs), Individual Vessel Quotas (IVQs) and Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs), depending on the way they are administered. The regimes are competitive and efficient, where the catch share is tradable. Under IFQs, each quota holder is allowed to catch a specified percentage of the TAC (total allowable catch) that is set by fishery managers each season. These IFQs are transferable such that the quota holders can adjust the size of their fishing operations by buying and selling quotas.

The marine environment also extensively benefits when there is a shift from traditional management to a property rights approach. Firstly, it reduces by-catch, which is a major concern. Secondly, catch share regimes also address issues such as seafloor degradation, coral destruction and other damages caused due to bottom trawling, dredging and trapping. For instance, the Alaska Halibut fishery, where the IFQs led to the above results.

Sustainable Development

The importance of fisheries is evident from the fact that SDG 14 specifically talks about conserving and using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Conventional ways of addressing the problem of overfishing have not been very successful. Effective measures include the rights-based and community-based approaches, including investing in natural resources. All these require effective monitoring. In India's case, the measures for the promotion of the fisheries sector are in the right direction, however, all the stakeholders should also be alert to the problem of overfishing.

(Dr Aishwarya Harichandan is Assistant Professor of Economics and Business Environment at IIM Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. Kanhaiya Kumar is Indian Forest Service probationer at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

World at war

Several parts of the world are in a state of war. The Russia-Ukraine war is already on, with more arms and ammunition being sent to Ukraine by the West. Israel is fighting on several fronts in the Middle East. According to reports, the United States is also sending additional troops to the Middle East in the wake of a sharp increase in the violence between Israel and Lebanon. Where are we headed? There are fears of the world getting engulfed in a Third World War. The United Nations seems to have become a mute spectator. All we can say is, 'give peace a chance'!

MELVILLE X D'SOUZA, Mumbai

Well-researched

The Rewind on 'Rendezvous with Rhinos'. (Sept 22) was well-researched and covered every aspect of this magnificent animal. I was not aware that rhinos were successfully relocated to Dudhwa and Manas sanctuaries. I am also curious to know about the fate of Kuno cheetahs. Are they surviving and what is their future? Thanks for this beautiful article.

BISWAJIT BASU

Gentle giants

Many thanks to N Shiva Kumar for highlighting the endangered species. Rhinos are gentle giants. Apart from poaching, floods are a major problem threatening the survival of the species. However, people have become alert and any news of killing rhinos gets wide publicity in newspapers and TV channels.

DILIP KUMAR BORAH, Guwahati

Education must

Not only adults, but teenagers are also addicted to child porn content. Such heinous acts leave a long-lasting emotional and mental trauma on children who are victims. Apart from making child porn an offence, awareness is a must for children. The government should make efforts to educate students in schools about good/bad touch, proactive measures and defence techniques.

ABHILASHA GUPTA, Mohali

Wasteful exercise

The main reason adduced by the BJP government to introduce 'one nation, one election' is that it would reduce the cost of multiple elections. However, it holds no water. Further, if this mode of election has to be implemented, multiple amendments to the Constitution will have to be made which is improbable, as the ruling saffron alliance lacks the required two-thirds majority in both the Houses. The recommendation of the Kovind panel has not come as a surprise to many.

THARCIUS S FERNANDO, Chennai

Crucial moment for Sri Lanka

With a country seeking to emerge from the economic collapse, the Sri Lanka election serves as a crucial moment for shaping the nation's recovery and restoring both domestic and international confidence in its governance. Anura Kumara Dissanayake's anti-corruption message and his promise of a change in political culture resonated strongly with young voters. Tax hikes and welfare cuts by the previous government as part of austerity measures aimed at steering the country's economy back on track did not work out well. Dissanayakey's accession to the present office is a remarkable turnaround. He is Sri Lanka's first Marxist party leader to become the President of the island nation.

P VICTOR SELVARAJ, Palayamkottai

Write to us at letters@telanganatoday.com

India in the hotspot

■ Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh and India: No room for bad blood

"Bangladesh-India" must surely be among the most misrepresented bilateral relationships in the region... The need to rewire the relationship ranges from Bangladesh bargaining harder for trade and transshipment quid pro quos, to ensuring equity in river water sharing.

■ Al Jazeera

Is Indus Waters Treaty the latest flashpoint?

For more than 60 years, India and Pakistan have jointly managed the waters of six rivers of the Indus basin that gave birth to one of the oldest human civilisations. Despite four wars and near-constant tension between them, they used the Indus Waters Treaty to irrigate the fertile lands.

■ CNN

US to return a trove of nearly 300 antiquities

The US is returning 297 history-spanning antiquities stolen or smuggled from India, many dating back centuries. Marking the handover, President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi posed for a photo in front of several of the artifacts, during a recent meeting.

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"Even enemies think I'm not corrupt"

Kejri says Centre tried to break him physically, mentally in jail

PTI
CHANDIGARH

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday stepped up his attack on the BJP-led Centre, alleging he was arrested as the ruling party wanted to project him as a "chor" (thief) but even his "fiercest enemy" believes he is not corrupt. The former Delhi chief minister held a roadshow in the Rania Assembly constituency in Haryana's Sirsa in favour of Aam Aadmi Party nominee Harpinder Singh for the October 5 State Assembly polls.

Kejriwal resigned as the chief minister of Delhi after being released from the Tihar Jail last week following his bail in the excise policy case by the Supreme Court. AAP leader Atishi later took oath as Chief Minister of the national capital.

Addressing a gathering during the roadshow, Kejriwal said he had to spend five-and-a-half months in the jail for no reason. "What was my fault? My fault is being the chief minister of Delhi for 10 years, I set up good government schools for children of the poor. Earlier, there were power cuts for 7-8 hours in Delhi. But now there is round-the-clock electricity. My fault is that I made electricity free in Delhi and Punjab," Kejriwal said. "My fault is that I started a free 'tirath yatra' for elderly people. So many works were carried out in Delhi and Punjab. No corrupt person could do these," he said. Kejriwal said his government made electricity free in Delhi which involved a huge amount of money — "Rs 3,000 crore". "I set up good schools for children of the poor. It involved expenditure. Had I been corrupt, I could have put it in my pocket," he said. Attacking the BJP, he said electricity is quite costly in every State the party is in power. "Electricity is not free in Haryana, it is very costly. I want to ask you who is a 'chor' — the one who makes electricity free or the one who makes electricity expensive."

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow in support of party candidate Harpinder Singh in Sirsa district of Haryana. — Photo: PTI

Lashing out at the BJP, Kejriwal said, "Why did they put me in jail? I am honest. Meri imandari pe chot karna chahte hain. (They want to tarnish my image of honesty. They want to say that Kejriwal is a 'chor' (thief) as he was jailed for five months." But as he walked out of the jail, nobody was ready to accept that he is a 'chor', the AAP chief said.

"Even my 'kattar se kattar dushman' (fiercest enemy) says that Kejriwal can be anything but not corrupt." "They tried to break me mentally and physically in jail. They stopped my medicines. I am diabetic. I have been taking insulin for 10 years. They stopped my insulin. I do not know what they wanted to do with me," he said. "They wanted to break my resolve. But they do not know that I hail from Haryana. You can break the resolve of any one but not of Haryanawala," said Kejriwal.

The AAP leader said he came here to seek votes for his party in the October 5 Assembly polls. "I came here to seek votes. It is not for getting power. I came after leaving power. I resigned from the post of Delhi Chief Minister. In today's era, nobody leaves even the post of a peon. Nobody sought my resignation," he said.

SC rejects Punjab's NRI quota expansion plea

Calls it a fraud in medical admissions

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the Punjab government's appeal against a high court verdict quashing its decision to expand the definition of 'NRI quota' for admissions in undergraduate medical and dental courses in the State. "This fraud must come to an end now," apex court said.

On September 10, the Punjab and Haryana High Court trashed the AAP-led government's August 20 move to include distant relatives "such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, and cousins" of NRIs for admissions under 15 per cent quota for this group in admissions in state medical colleges.

"This is nothing but a money spinning machine," observed a Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

"We will dismiss all the petitions. This NRI business is nothing but a fraud. We will put an end to all this.... now the so called precedents must give way to primacy of law," said the Bench.

Terming the high court verdict "absolutely right," the court said, "Look at the deleterious consequences... the candidates who have three times higher marks will lose admission (in NEET-UG courses)."

The top court said distant relatives of a 'mama, tai, taya,' who are settled abroad, will get admissions ahead of meritorious candidates and this cannot be allowed.

"This is completely a fraud. And this is what we are doing with our education system !...We will affirm the high court judgement. We must stop this NRI quota business now. The judges know what they are dealing with. The high court has dealt with the case threadbare," the CJI said. "Let us put a lid on this...what is this ward? You just have to say that I am looking after X ... We cannot lend our authority to something which is blatantly illegal," the Bench said while dismissing the plea of the State government.

Senior advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the Punjab government, said that other States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh also followed the broader interpretation of term 'NRI quota.' Moreover, the States have the power to decide as to how 15 per cent NRI quota has to be granted.

Out of total NEET-UG seats, 85 per cent seats in medical colleges are filled up by the States in medical colleges under their jurisdiction, the counsel, in favour of NRI quota, told the Bench. The Bench said now the Central government will have to take note of this as well.

A division Bench of the high court had come out with an elaborate judgement trashing the State government decision to broaden the ambit of NRI quota for admissions in Punjab medical colleges.

"Imparting education is not an economic activity but a welfare-oriented endeavour as the ultimate aim is to achieve an egalitarian and prosperous society in order to bring about social transformation and upliftment of the nation.

"Capitation fee has totally been prohibited. If the admissions in the expanded NRI category to include non-genuine NRIs are permitted; the prohibition made on charge of capitation fee would serve no higher purpose, as the State/private colleges would be at liberty to reap the benefits by amending the provisions according to their whims, which means accepting it by disguising the process," the high court said. PTI

In Brief

LUCKNOW

Minor girl gang-raped

A class 5 student was allegedly gang-raped by two youths while she returning home from school here, police said on Tuesday. The accused were identified as Danish and Amin, police said. According to police, the incident occurred in the Sarojini Nagar area when the 14-year-old girl was returning home from school. The accused tried to snatch the girl's bag. When she resisted, they forced her to sit in the car, took her to a hotel in the Krishna Nagar area and gang-raped her. They later dropped the girl near her house and fled, police said.

SUKMA

Two naxalites killed

Two naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Tuesday, and their colleagues managed to take away their bodies, police claimed. The skirmish occurred on a forested hill near the Chintavagu River under the Chintalnar police station limits where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Sukma SP Kiran Chavan said. The operation involving District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighters was launched in the Karkanguda area on Monday night.

Actor Mukesh held; Siddique on the run after HC rejects bail plea

KOCHI

Legal actions intensified on Tuesday against two prominent Malayalam actors, Sidhique and Mukesh, as the Kerala High Court denied Sidhique's bail plea in a 2016 rape case involving a young actress, while Mukesh was arrested by the SIT for allegedly sexually assaulting another female actor a decade ago in Kochi.

While Mukesh, a ruling CPI(M) MLA, was released on bail after his formal arrest, having already secured bail from a court in Kochi, Sidhique is reportedly on the run, prompting the police to launch a manhunt. Before his arrest was formally recorded, Mukesh was interrogated by the SIT for over three hours.

Rejecting the anticipatory bail plea of Sidhique, the High Court said in view of the seriousness of the accusations, his custodial interrogation was inevitable for investigation of the crime. PTI

Sensex closes flat after hitting 85,000 level

MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex scaled the 85,000 level and Nifty breached the 26,000 mark for the first time before paring gains to close flat in a volatile session, dragged by losses in FMCG and select banking shares. The 30-share BSE benchmark declined by 14.57 points or 0.02% to settle at 84,914.04, snapping its three-day record-breaking run.

In the morning trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex scaled the 85,000 level, jumping 234.62 points or 0.27 per cent to scale a new all-time intra-day peak of 85,163.23. China announcing stimulus measures to bolster its economy fuelled metal shares. The index, however, hit a low of 84,716.07 in the afternoon session due to profit-taking at record levels.

Selling in Hindustan Unilever, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICICI Bank dragged the key index from the day's highs. The Nifty eked out gains of 1.35 points or 0.01 per cent to close at a fresh high of 25,940.40. During the day, it climbed 72.5 points or 0.27 per cent to hit a new record intra-day high of 26,011.55. Investors are struggling to find clear directions following a record rally, traders said. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said, "Domestic benchmarks are attempting to sustain new highs, driven by the US Fed's aggressive rate cut. Meanwhile, the Chinese central bank's rate cut, and additional stimulus measures have positively influenced global investor sentiment, resulting in gains for domestic metal stocks." PTI

Biden, Zayed discuss progress on IMEC project

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden and his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed discussed the progress of the landmark India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and underscored its potential to usher in a "new era of international connectivity".

The ambitious project was launched at the 2023 G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi, together with the leaders of India, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union. When complete, it would connect India by ship-to-rail connections through the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe through Greece.

At the meeting held at the White House on Monday, Biden and Zayed reaffirmed that the corridor will generate economic growth, increase efficiencies, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enable the transformative integration of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, according to a joint statement. PTI

India-UAE trade set to exceed $100bn ahead of 2030: Report

NEW DELHI: The bilateral trade between India and UAE is on track to surpass the $100 billion target well before 2030, underscored by a notable 12.7 per cent (year-on-year) increase, according to a report on Tuesday. The UAE remains India's third-largest trading partner and second-largest export destination (FY2022-23).

According to a report by Primus Partners, Bilateral trade reached $85 billion in FY 2022-23 and is expected to cross the 2030 target of $100 billion well before the expected timeline. The India-UAE economic relationship strengthened with the recent visit of Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, to India. IANS

Jharkhand polls likely after November 15

RANCHI

The Election Commission has completed its two-day visit to Jharkhand to review preparations for the Assembly elections. The team, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and comprising Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Dr SS Sandhu, emphasised commitment to ensuring free and fair elections.

Poll officials have asked the State government, administration, and law enforcement agencies to maintain strict law and order without any bias. Following consultations with various stakeholders, the EC is expected to announce the poll dates soon, possibly starting the process after November 15. IANS

A Fun Ride

Security personnel travel in the metro during media preview ahead of Phase 1 of Mumbai Metro Line 3 opening on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

Over 580 extremists surrender in Tripura

AGARTALA

In a significant development, as many as 584 extremists of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) on Tuesday surrendered to the Tripura government three weeks after an agreement signed with Centre and the State government in Delhi.

The NLFT and ATTF cadres laid down their arms and ammunition before Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha at a surrender ceremony on Tuesday noon at the Tripura State Rifles (TSR) seventh battalion headquarters at Jampuijala in Sepahijala district. The cadres of both the outfits have deposited a large number of arms and ammunition, including many sophisticated weapons in the surrender ceremony. The details of the weapons would be disclosed by the government later.

NLFT and ATTF extremists during a surrender ceremony in Jampuijala, West Tripura, on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

Tripura Home Department officials claimed Tuesday's surrender of 584 extremists was one of the biggest surrenders in the recent past in the northeastern region. After the surrender ceremony, which was dampened due to heavy rain, NLFT President Biswa Mohan Debbarma said that there would be a formal "flag down" ceremony at Baijolbari in Khowai district to declare abandoning their outfit.

The NLFT and the ATTF outfits signed the peace agreement with the Centre and Tripura government in Delhi on September 4 in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tripura Chief Minister, other political leaders and officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Tripura government. The official said that with this surrender of militants, the nearly five decade-old insurgency in Tripura is expected to be over.

He said under the September 4 agreement, signed with the two outlawed militant outfits, a special package of Rs 250 crore has been approved by the MHA. IANS

Elderly woman crawls 2 km to collect pension

RANCHI

A 70-year-old woman in Odisha's Keonjhar district was forced to crawl nearly two kilometres from her home to the Panchayat office to collect her monthly old-age pension. The ailing woman identified as Pathuri Dehury, a resident of Raisuan gram panchayat, cannot walk, according to villagers.

Though the State government had earlier issued a directive to officials to deliver the pension of elderly and disabled beneficiaries at their doorstep, Dehury said a Panchayat official had asked her to visit the office to collect the monthly pension. PTI

Badlapur case: MVA questions encounter of accused

MUMBAI

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has questioned the killing of Akshay S Shinde, the prime accused in the Badlapur rape case, while his parents have alleged that it was a 'contract killing' by the Thane Police, here on Tuesday.

MVA allies, Nationalist Congress Party (SP)'s president Sharad Pawar and former Minister Anil Deshmukh, besides Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Aditya Thackeray, Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut, MP Priyanka Chaturvedi and others criticised the MahaYuti government on various counts, seeking a probe by a retired High Court judge.

Pawar questioned the laxity of the Home Department in transferring the main accused, as the injustice meted out on the two minor girls in the Badlapur school should have been executed within the proper framework of the law. "It seems government has become weak in showing the threat of the laws so that nobody would dare think of such a reprehensible act in the future. We expect that the exact situation will come out after a thorough probe," Pawar said.

Aditya Thackeray raised many doubts on where is the trustee of the (Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha) school, why are they being protected by the MahaYuti government and why is the Shiv Sena leader Waman Mhatre being shielded.

"The citizens who joined the protest are being treated like gangsters, will the cases against them be withdrawn? They were raising their voice against the police refusal to file the complaint of the victims' parents a week after — who were the police protecting? It is said that the school is affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party, is it true, the government must answer," he demanded.

The former Home Minister, Anil Deshmukh wondered how, "when the hands of the accused were tied up, he could grab a pistol and start firing," and sought to know the status of the absconding AVPS trustees. IANS

Stage set for J-K polls: 239 in fray

3,502 polling stations across six districts set up for 2nd phase

Security personnel stand guard outside a polling booth near Line of Control ahead of the election, in Rajouri on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

SRINAGAR

Over 2.5 million voters will decide the fate of 239 candidates in the fray for 26 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly seats in the second phase of the election to be held in the union Territory on Wednesday.

These Assembly constituencies are spread over six districts – three in the Valley and as many in the Jammu division. "To facilitate smooth and hassle-free electoral participation, the Election Commission of India has established 3,502 polling stations in these segments. There are 1,056 urban polling stations and 2,446 rural polling stations," an official said. All polling stations will have webcasting facilities as part of the Election Commission's efforts to ensure transparency, according to officials.

"To enhance voter participation, 157 special polling stations have been established for the second phase – 26 'pink polling stations' managed by women, 26 polling stations manned by specially abled persons, 26 polling stations manned by youths, 31 border polling stations, 26 green polling stations and 22 unique polling stations," the official said.

> **To enhance voter participation, 157 special polling stations have been set up – 26 'pink stations' managed by women, 26 manned by specially abled, 31 border polling stations**
>
> — AN OFFICIAL

Voting will take place from 7 am to 6 pm. Key names in the fray for this phase are former chief minister Omar Abdullah, JKPCC president Tariq Hamid Karra and BJP J-K chief Ravinder Raina. Abdullah is contesting from the Ganderbal and Budgam seats, while Karra is contesting from Central Shalteng. Raina will be trying to retain his Nowshera seat in Rajouri district which he won in the 2014 assembly polls. The second phase will be watched keenly as jailed separatist leader Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Barkati is hoping to repeat Engineer Rashid's Lok Sabha poll feat against the National Conference leader. Barkati is contesting from the Beerwah and Ganderbal.

Popularly known as Rashid Engineer, Sheikh Abdul Rashid contested the parliamentary polls held earlier this year from Tihar jail and still managed to defeat Abdullah by a margin of more than two lakh votes from the Baramulla constituency. Other key candidates in this second phase of assembly polls are Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari (Channapora), former ministers Ali Mohammad Sagar (Khanyar), Abdul Rahim Rather (Chrar-i-Sharief), and Choudhary Zulfikar Ali (Budhal) and Syed Mushtaq Bukhari (Surankote). Choudhary Zulfikar Ali and Syed Mushtaq Bukhari are contesting on BJP tickets this time.

An estimated 61.38 per cent of the electorate cast their ballots in the first phase of polling on September 18. The third phase will go to polls on October 1. The votes will be counted on October 8. During this phase, 93 candidates are in the fray in Srinagar district, followed by 46 in Budgam district, 34 in Rajouri district, 25 in Poonch district, 21 in Ganderbal district and 20 in Reasi district. PTI

I'm not guilty, says Sidda

Court only ordered probe, will tackle 'conspiracy' politically: K'taka Chief Minister

IANS
BENGALURU

Slamming the opposition for demanding his resignation, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said that he is not guilty as the court has only ordered a probe into the controversial MUDA case.

"Kumaraswamy is on bail. Did anyone ask for his resignation? The court has only directed an inquiry into the MUDA case that does not mean that I am guilty," said the Chief Minister while addressing a press conference at his home office 'Krishna' in Bengaluru.

He added that the court has given the verdict under 17 (A) of the PC Act, adding that the matter has been handed over to the investigation agency. "Won't moral standards apply to Kumaraswamy? He is with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government. Why don't you (media) ask him? At this stage only an inquiry has been ordered against me. Why do you ask for a resignation at this stage? We will tackle it politically as it is a conspiracy," the Chief Minister said.

He said that the development would be challenged politically and legally, adding that the court has totally rejected the demand of the petitioners under the BNSS Section 218. He said that earlier, the Governor had rejected the petitioner's demand of giving sanction under Section 19 of the PC Act. "I am not afraid of conspiracy of the BJP and JD-S. The people of Karnataka are with our party and they are with me. It's not possible to dislodge our government through money power and Operation Lotus. They succeeded in 2008 and 2019. This time, the people of Karnataka have given us absolute majority to Congress. We have 136 MLAs on our side," the Chief Minister said. He said that the conspiracy was hatched at the national level and they succeeded in sending some Chief Ministers to jail.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah with his Deputy DK Shivakumar addresses a press conference in Bengaluru. — Photo: PTI

CM will come out clean, says DKS

BENGALURU: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said there is no question of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah resigning over the High Court dismissing his petition challenging Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's approval for investigation against him in a site allotment case. He alleged that there was a "big conspiracy" against the Chief Minister, as he asserted that the latter has done no wrong in the issue and will come out clean. He said: "The CM has not done anything wrong. It is a political conspiracy by the BJP against all opposition leaders in the country." PTI

Make way for free probe: BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP demanded that Siddaramaiah should immediately resign as Karnataka Chief Minister to make way for a free and independent probe into the alleged Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment scam. The BJP remark came after the Karnataka High Court dismissed Siddaramaiah's petition challenging Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's approval of an investigation against him in the case. "The HC has validated the action of the governor. The BJP demands that CM to tender resignation and make way for a free probe," a party leader said. PTI

In Brief

AIZAWL

Body plans to block NH-306

Over 2,000 'landowners' in Kolasib district have decided to go ahead with their plan to indefinitely block NH-306, which will snap Mizoram's connectivity to the rest of the country, from Wednesday as their meetings with the State government remained inconclusive, a leader of their association said. They have been urging the government to resolve the ownership issues of land along the highway and lift the freezing order. Besides, they are demanding the repeal of the Roadside Reserve Forest notification of 1965. PTI

ANANTAPUR

Chariot set ablaze in AP

A chariot of Hanuman temple at a village in the district was allegedly set ablaze by unidentified persons early on Tuesday, and five persons have been detained in this connection. Anantapur district Superintendent of Police (SP) P Jagadeesh said the incident was not communal, but a fallout of some altercation between two groups within the same community. "It is not communal... Two people donated it two years ago and there was a discord between them," he said. PTI

Will not tolerate attack on Sanatana Dharma: Pawan

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday lashed out at his critics for finding fault with him for raising his voice against adulteration of Tirupati laddu and warned that attacks on Sanatana Dharma will not be tolerated.

Making it clear that he would not keep quiet over the attacks on Sanatana Dharma, the actor-politician also slammed actor Prakash Raj saying secularism is not a one-way affair. The Jana Sena chief was talking to mediapersons after purification rituals at Kanaka Durga temple here as part of his 11-day 'Prayaschita Deeksha' (penance) over the alleged presence of animal fat in the ghee used for making laddu prasadam of Tirumala temple.

Pawan Kalyan questioned those criticising him for undertaking 'Deeksha' and for speaking out against the adulteration. "Why should I not speak out? Should I not speak when my house is attacked?" he asked. The Deputy Chief Minister said he was not speaking against any religion. He said he was questioning YSR Congress leaders who are also Hindus but failed to discharge their duties as chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

Stating that he has been an ardent follower of Sanatana Dharma from his childhood, the Jana Sena leader said he would not remain silent if Dharma was attacked. Responding to the comments made by Prakash Raj, Pawan Kalyan asked if he spoke against any religion. "Prakash Raj Garu, you have to learn your lessons. I respect you. It's not just Prakash Raj but all the people who think in the name of secularism you can go haywire. Let me tell you guys. We are extremely hurt. Don't make a mockery out of our sentiments," he said. "We are deeply hurt. It may be fun for you. It's not fun for us. It's a deep anguish, deep pain. Don't ever forget. Think 100 times before you speak about Sanatana Dharma. Enough of this," he added. IANS

AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan taking part in a purification ritual at Sri Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada. — Photo: PTI

Religious leaders seek thorough probe

TIRUPATI: Hindu religious leaders on Tuesday staged a protest outside Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) administrative building over alleged adulteration of Tirupati laddu prasadam. Raising slogans and holding placards, leaders of Andhra Pradesh Hindu Sadhu Parishad and other Hindu religious organisations participated in the protest.

One of the religious leaders said such a desecration never happened in the history of Sri Venkateswara temple. He demanded that the government conduct a thorough probe into the affairs of the TTD during the last five years.

MIM rally not allowed to enter Mumbai

MUMBAI

AIMIM's Tiranga rally, organised to seek the arrest of BJP legislator Nitesh Rane and Ramgiri Maharaj over the provocative remarks against Muslims, has headed back to Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar from Mumbai, police said on Tuesday.

The rally, which was to enter Mumbai, was not allowed to proceed beyond Thane and its participants began making their way back to Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Monday night, an official said.

The rally was led by Imtiaz Jaleel, former MP of AIMIM. "Despite the fact that FIRs have been lodged at different places against them, the State government has refused to act against Nitesh Rane and Ramgiri Maharaj who have openly targeted the Muslim community and made inflammatory statements to disturb peace in the State," Jaleel said.

"The Mahayuti government is rattled by its defeat in the Lok Sabha. Now it wants Hindu-Muslim violence and thereby benefit during elections," he said. PTI

Modi calls for ceasefire, release of hostages in West Asia

JAMMU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for a ceasefire in West Asia, the release of hostages and a return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy as he stressed that only a two-state solution will deliver enduring peace and stability in the volatile region.

Modi expressed deep concern at the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza and the deteriorating security situation in the region during his meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on the margins of the Summit of the Future here on Monday. He reaffirmed India's unwavering support to the people of Palestine, including continued humanitarian assistance, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. Prime Minister Modi "reiterated India's time-tested principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue, and called for a ceasefire, the release of hostages and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy," it said.

> PM meets Palestine President, says only a two-state solution will deliver peace and stability in the region

He stressed that only a two-state solution will deliver enduring peace and stability in the region.

"The two leaders held constructive discussion on various facets of India-Palestine bilateral relations, including India's support to Palestine at the UN and ongoing assistance and support to Palestine," the statement said. PTI

7 killed as truck rams auto

BHOPAL

At least seven persons were killed and five sustained critical injuries after a speeding truck crushed an auto-rickshaw in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on Tuesday. The mishap occurred at Bandakpur road in front of Samanna village of â€‹â€‹Damoh. The injured were rushed to the district hospital. The accident site sent shockwaves to the commuters as the bodies were lying in a pool of blood. The police reached the spot immediately and the bodies were retrieved with the help of a bulldozer. IANS

Follow school safety norms, SC to States

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all States and union Territories to notify the Centre's guidelines on school safety and security. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh was hearing a plea of NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) seeking the implementation of the guidelines issued by the union Ministry of Education in 2021.

Senior advocate HS Phoolka, appearing for the NGO, said till date, only five States have notified the Centre's 2021 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security'. Disposing of the 2019 PIL, the bench directed the chief secretaries of the States and the UTs to ensure compliance. The senior lawyer said the plea attempted to depict the apprehension of parents who sent their wards to schools without any peace of mind regarding their safety. "The aim and objective behind the guidelines are to enact self-contained comprehensive legislation to provide for the protection of all children from all kinds of exploitation and abuse and guarantee their physical, social, psychological and moral well-being," the plea said.

"The safety and security of every child studying in school is the avowed purpose and intent behind the Guidelines, therefore, it is imperative that it should be implemented effectively and mandatorily within a defined timeline," it added. PTI

NIA raids 11 places in TN, seizes unaccounted cash

NEW DELHI

The NIA conducted searches at multiple locations across Tamil Nadu on Tuesday as part of its probe into an "anti-election campaign" promoted by the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a pan-Islamist organisation seeking to establish Islamic rule in the country, an official statement said. It said officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided the houses of 11 suspects in Chennai, Tambaram and Kanyakumari districts, and seized incriminating materials, including digital devices, unaccounted cash and literature belonging to the Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

The NIA said the searches were conducted as part of a case related to causing and creating disaffection through various social media handles and campaigning against the exercise of the electoral franchise, which is deemed by the Hizb-ut-Tahrir as un-Islamic or 'Haram'. The Hizb-ut-Tahrir is a fundamentalist organisation engaged in instigating its followers to overthrow the lawfully established democratic government through divisive actions, according to the anti-terror agency.

Hameed Hussain, a key conspirator in the case, had collaborated with five other accused to hold secret meetings to promote the anti-India ideology of the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, it said. "NIA investigations in the case so far have revealed that the accused, along with several groups of people, had carried out campaigns throughout Tamil Nadu to establish Khilafah or Islamic rule in India, and had been involved in activities aimed at dividing the people and disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country," the statement said.

Investigations are continuing, and the material seized is being examined. PTI

Israeli strike kills top Hezbollah leader

Tel Aviv steps up assault even as toll rises to 560; thousands flee Lebanon

A man stands amidst the rubble of a building hit in an Israeli airstrike in the southern village of Akbieh, Lebanon on Tuesday. — Photo: AP

AP
BEIRUT

Israel said it killed a top commander with Hezbollah's missile and rocket unit on Tuesday as the Israeli military traded fire with Hezbollah again and the death toll from a massive Israeli bombing campaign cli mbed to nearly 560 people.

Military officials said Ibrahim Kobeisi, who joined Hezbollah in the 1980s, was responsible for launches towards Israel and planned a 2000 attack in the Mount Dov region in which three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped and killed. He was killed in a strike on Beirut, the military said, adding that "other key commanders" were with Kobeisi at the time of the strike.

But officials did not say whether any of the others were killed or wounded. Meanwhile, thousands of people fled from southern Lebanon with the two sides on the brink of all-out war. Displaced families slept in shelters hastily set up in schools in Beirut and the coastal city of Sidon. With hotels quickly booked to capacity or rooms priced beyond the means of many families, those who did not find shelter slept in their cars, in parks or along the seaside. Issa Baydoun fled the village of Shihine in southern Lebanon when it was bombed and came to Beirut in a convoy of cars with his extended family. They slept in the vehicles on the side of the road after discovering that the shelters were full."We struggled a lot on the road just to get here," he said. Baydoun rejected Israel's contention that it hit only military targets. "We evacuated our homes because Israel is targeting civilians and attacking them," he said. "That's why we left our homes, to protect our children." The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Lebanon said that one of its staffers and her young son were among those killed on Monday in the Bekaa region.

Turkish Airlines cancels flights

ISTANBUL: Turkiye's flag carrier, Turkish Airlines, and the country's low-cost carrier, Pegasus Airlines, cancelled their flights to and from Lebanon due to heightened risks, local media reported on Tuesday. The decision comes in response to Israel's air strikes on Lebanon, affecting flights to and from Beirut scheduled for Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Jordan's Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission announced that it has suspended flights of Jordanian airlines to Beirut until further notice. Royal Jordanian Airlines, the country's flag carrier, on Monday also announced that it will suspend flights to Beirut for 48 hours, following directives from the Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission. IANS

Houthis pledge support for Hezbollah

ADEN: Yemen's Houthi group pledged its support for Lebanon's armed group Hezbollah in its ongoing conflict with Israel. "We reaffirm that Yemen stands with Lebanon and its valiant Islamic resistance," Mohamed Abdul-Salam, the spokesman for the Houthis, stated through the group's al-Masirah TV, condemning the Israeli "aggression" against Lebanon, Xinhua news agency reported. The Houthi spokesman also called for broader regional involvement, urging other nations in the region to take a more active role in the condemnation of the Israeli attacks. "We call on Arab and Islamic countries to break the silence," he said. On Friday, Yemen's Houthi Defence Minister Mohammed Nasser al-Atifi stated in a televised address that the Houthi group will continue its attacks against Israel. IANS

Palestinian PM condemns war in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS: Palestine PM Mohammad Mustafa condemned Israel's "genocidal war" in Gaza at a United Nations (UN) meeting, pleading for urgent action by the international community to stop the aggression. "As I speak before you, our people in Gaza are enduring one of the darkest chapters in modern history," Mustafa, also Palestine's Minister of Foreign Affairs, said in his address at the UN Summit of the Future, Xinhua news agency reported. "For nearly a year now, Israel's genocidal war has caused unprecedented loss and suffering and humanitarian catastrophe," he said, referring to Israel's war effort in the Gaza Strip. PTI

UN chief alarmed by situation

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is gravely alarmed by the escalating situation along the Blue Line — a buffer zone separating Israel and Lebanon — and the large number of civilian casualties being reported by Lebanese officials, his spokesman said.

The UN chief is also deeply alarmed by the thousands of displaced persons, amid the most intense Israeli bombing campaign since last October, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement, Xinhua news agency reported. Noting that the Secretary-General is also gravely alarmed by the continued strikes by Hezbollah into Israel, the statement said Guterres expressed grave concern for the safety of civilians on both sides of the Blue Line, including UN personnel, and strongly condemns the loss of lives.

Guterres reiterates the urgent need for immediate de-escalation and that all efforts be devoted to a diplomatic solution. IANS

Full scale war is not in anyone's interest: Biden

UNITED NATIONS

US President Joe Biden

President Joe Biden declared in his final address to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that the US must not retreat from the world, as Israel and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon edged toward all-out war and Israel's bloody operation against Hamas in Gaza neared the one-year mark.

Biden used his wide-ranging address to speak to a need to end the Middle East conflict and the 17-month-old civil war in Sudan and to highlight US and Western allies' support for Kyiv since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

He also raised concern over artificial intelligence and its potential to be used for repression. His appearance before the international body offered Biden one of his last high-profile opportunities as President to make the case to keep up robust support for Ukraine, which could be in doubt if former President Donald Trump defeats Vice President Kamala Harris in November. Biden insisted that despite global conflicts, he remains hopeful for the future. "I've seen a remarkable sweep of history," Biden said. "I know many look at the world today and see difficulties and react with despair but I do not."

"We are stronger than we think" when the world acts together, he added. Biden came to office promising to rejuvenate US relations around the world and to extract the US from "forever wars" in Afghanistan and Iraq that consumed American foreign policy over the last 20 years. "I was determined to end it, and I did," Biden said of the Afghanistan exit, calling it a "hard decision but the right decision." He acknowledged that it was "accompanied by tragedy" with the deaths of 13 American troops and hundreds of Afghans in a suicide bombing during the chaotic withdrawal. But his foreign policy legacy may ultimately be shaped by his administration's response to two of the biggest conflicts in Europe and the Middle East since World War II.

The Pentagon announced Monday that it was sending a small number of additional U.S. troops to the Middle East to supplement the roughly 40,000 already in the region. All the while, the White House insists Israel and Hezbollah still have time to step back and de-escalate. "Full scale war is not in anyone's interest," Biden said, and despite escalating violence, a diplomatic solution is the only path to peace. Biden had a hopeful outlook for the Middle East when he addressed the UN just a year ago. AP

Lanka President dissolves Parliament

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's newly appointed President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Tuesday signed the special gazette notification ordering the dissolution of Parliament, officials said.

The dissolution will be effective from midnight Tuesday and the election will be held on November 14. Dissanayake in the run-up to Saturday's presidential election said he would immediately dissolve parliament to order a snap poll. The last Parliament was convened in August 2020.

The dissolution has come 11 months ahead of schedule. Dissanayake, 56, was sworn in as Sri Lanka's ninth President by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya at the Presidential Secretariat on Monday. His swearing-in came hours after Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned from his post as part of a power transition in the country following the presidential election.

Earlier, President Dissanayake appointed his Cabinet of four, including himself and also Harini Amarasuriya was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, making her the 16th person to hold the position. PTI

'FBI mishandling' assassination bid

WASHINGTON

Former US president Donald Trump has accused the Department of Justice and the FBI of "mishandling and downplaying" the recent apparent assassination attempt on his life, demanding that the State of Florida handle the case.

A second bid in two months on 78-year-old Trump's life took place on September 15 at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Ryan Wesley Routh, a 58-year-old owner of a small construction company in Hawaii, was detained in connection with the incident.

"The Kamala Harris/Joe Biden Department of Justice and FBI are mishandling and downplaying the second assassination attempt on my life since July," Trump said in a statement on Monday. "The charges brought against the maniac assassin are a slap on the wrist. It's no wonder since the DOJ and FBI have been coming after me nonstop with Weaponised Lawfare since I announced my first Historic Campaign for the Presidency," he said.

Trump is the Republican presidential candidate, running for the White House against Democratic rival Vice President Kamala Harris, for the November 5 presidential elections. Trump further claimed that the Justice Department and FBI have a "conflict of interest" since they have been "obsessed with 'Getting Trump' for so long".

'Will not run for Prez again if I lose'

Trump ruled out running for the White House in 2028 if he loses his presidential bid in November this year. "No, I don't. No, I don't. I think that that will be, that will be it. I don't see that at all. I think that hopefully we're gonna be successful," Trump told host Sharyl Attkisson in an interview over the weekend. AP

Toll in Iran mine explosion rises to 49

TEHRAN

Iran said on Tuesday it believes the remaining workers trapped by an explosion at a coal mine in the country's east have died, bringing the death toll in one of its worst industrial disasters to at least 49.

A provincial emergency official, Mohammad Ali Akhoundi, gave the death toll in a report carried by Iranian state television from the mine in Tabas.

Figures for the numbers of miners inside the mine at the time have fluctuated since a methane gas leak Saturday sparked an explosion at the coal mine in Tabas. Around 70 people had been working at the time of the blast. Bodies recovered so far showed no signs of blast injuries, suggesting many of the workers died from the gas before the blast. Such gases are common in mining, though modern safety measures call for ventilation and other measures to protect workers. AP

Pakistani beggars flock to Saudi under Umrah visas

ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia has warned Pakistan to take serious and urgent notice of beggars flooding the kingdom under Umrah and Hajj visas, calling on Islamabad's Ministry of Religious Affairs to prevent such people from getting visas and entering its territory for begging purposes. The Saudi government issued a warning to Pakistan after a large number of Pakistani nationals were caught begging in the country and were deported.

It was revealed that the Pakistani beggars had entered into the kingdom under Umrah and Hajj visas and were using their time to beg on the streets of Mecca and Medina. Sources in Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs confirmed that Saudi Arabia has raised serious concerns over the growing number of Pakistani beggars landing in the kingdom on Umrah visas.

"Saudi Arabia has warned that if the situation is not controlled, it could negatively affect Pakistani Umrah and Hajj pilgrims," said the source. The Ministry introduced 'Umrah Act' aimed at regulating travel agencies facilitating Umrah trips and bringing them under one legal umbrella to keep a legal oversight over them and their procedures for visa provisions.

The issue of Pakistani beggars has been an embarrassment for the Shehbaz Sharif government for some time now and discussed recently during a meeting between the Interior Minister of Pakistan Mohsin Naqvi and the Saudi envoy in Islamabad Nawaf Bin Said Ahmed Al-Malki. Naqvi had assured that strict measures were being taken against the "mafia" responsible for sending beggars to Saudi Arabia.

The Pakistan government has tasked the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to crack down on such networks and travel agencies, who are bringing shame and embarrassment to the country with their actions. "The beggars' mafia is damaging Pakistan's image," said Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. Several Gulf countries, which host the largest number of overseas Pakistanis, have raised serious concerns over the behavior of Pakistani citizens and have further tightened their scrutiny process for them.

Last month, 11 alleged beggars were caught at the Karachi airport and were offloaded from a Saudi Arabia-bound flight. They were caught after being stopped and questioned by the officials of FIA during the immigration process. IANS

Pak girl gang-raped in front of family

ISLAMABAD

In a gory reminder of the horrendous Lahore motorway incident of 2020, a teenage girl was gang-raped allegedly by robbers in front of her family near the famous Pakpattan city of Punjab province, local media reported.

The incident occurred near village Malik Rahmoo — a city known for its historic Sufi Islamic shrines, including that of Sufi Baba Fariduddin Ganj Shakar.

According to a report in 'Dawn', a resident of Bahawalnagar was on a visit to family friends in Pakpattan along with his wife, a son and a minor daughter, a sister and a 17-year-old niece when the incident happened. Returning home post-midnight, their car was intercepted by four armed suspects who first robbed all passengers and then offloaded women. The teenage girl was then taken to the roadside maize fields and gang-raped with the family held hostage. IANS

In Brief

HANOI

Three dead in Vietnam rains

Heavy rain in Vietnam's central region following tropical storm Soulik claimed three lives over the past few days, the National Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control reported. The three people were swept away by flash floods in Nghe An province, Xinhua news agency reported. Nearly 5,000 hectares of rice and farm produce were inundated in region. IANS

TOKYO

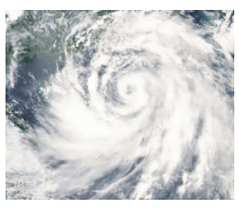
Tsunami waves

Small tsunami waves splashed ashore on remote Japanese islands on Tuesday morning after an earthquake that may have been triggered by volcanic activity. The offshore quake was not felt, and the tsunami advisory was lifted about three hours later. The offshore quake occurred about 180 km south of Hachijo island, which is about 300 kilometers (186 miles) south of Tokyo. AP

SYDNEY

Man stabbed to death

An investigation was underway after a man was stabbed to death on a busy street in Sydney's inner west, police said on Tuesday. Police in the State of New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement that emergency services responded to reports of a man being stabbed on a main road in the inner-city suburb of Marrickville at approximately 7:40 pm (local time) on Monday. IANS



ZHENGZHOU

Downpours lash China

Over 4,30,000 people in Shangqiu City, China's Henan Province, have been affected by heavy rainfall brought by Typhoon Bebinca, local authorities said on Tuesday. Most parts of Shangqiu were hit by heavy downpours from 8 am on September 17 to 6 am on September 19, which resulted in flooding in 69 townsh ips in Shangqiu, with precipitation reaching 625.9 mm. IANS

Grand welcome for chess champions

Gukesh, Pragg, Vaishali and Srinath greeted by fans in Chennai

PTI
CHENNAI

Flashing radiant smiles after their history-making gold at the Olympiad, members of India's trailblazing chess teams returned to an enthusiastic welcome from fans, officials and their families here on Tuesday.

The quartet of D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, R Vaishali, and men's team captain Srinath Narayanan landed here early this morning. Both the Indian men's and women's teams scripted history on Sunday, winning their maiden gold medals in the Chess Olympiad in Hungary. Their extraordinary victory reinforced India's position as a new chess powerhouse. And as was expected, there were loud cheers as the four walked out of the airport.

Gukesh, who was instrumental in Indian men's team dominance in the tournament with an unbeaten run, flashed his individual and team gold medals for the cameras. The 18-year-old is now gearing up for the world championship clash against China's Ding Liren in November after becoming the youngest-ever challenger to the crown by winning the Candidates Tournament in April.

"It's very special, since both the teams won the gold," Gukesh said. The brother-sister duo of Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali Narayanan reached in the before Gukesh. All of them were welcomed with garlands, bouquets and traditional stoles as fans scampered to click selfies with them. "I'm very happy that we have won the Olympiad for the first time, we have only won a bronze till now. And we managed to win in both sections so it's a very special feeling and a proud moment for us," Praggnanandhaa said. "We were playing good chess and it showed that we were the best team. The Olympiad is the only tournament we play as a team for the country," he added.

Vaishali, who laid the foundation for the women's team's triumph, said missing out on the gold in the last edition in Chennai was painful. "It's a dream moment. Last time in the Chennai Olympiad we won bronze, we were so close to winning gold that we missed it in the last round and it was very painful. I'm glad that both teams have won gold. It's a historical moment.

"We won six matches in a row and then lost to Poland, a painful defeat but I'm happy that we came back. We drew against the US next and last two matches we had to win to secure gold," she added.

Chess Grandmaster D Gukesh being welcomed upon his arrival in Chennai on Tuesday. —Photo: PTI

Kasparov hails India's double glory

NEW DELHI: Former world chess champion Garry Kasparov showered praise on the Indian team for historic double gold in both the men's and women's events at the 2024 Chess Olympiad. In a historic triumph, India's men's and women's teams clinched gold medals for the first time in the 45th Chess Olympiad. "Vishy's children" are all grown up and chess is coming home! Two American flags on the podiums as well, worthy of note. Add Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, with no European flags," Kasparov posted on X. IANS

'India tick all boxes ahead of T20 WC'

Harmanpreet confident in team's preparation

MUMBAI

The feeling of near misses has haunted Harmanpreet Kaur for long but the Indian captain feels that her team has ticked all the boxes in its bid to cross the line in the Women's T20 World Cup beginning in the UAE from October 3.

Since the tournament's inception in 2009, India have managed to reach the final only once — in 2020 when they lost to nemesis Australia. India also played ODI World Cup final in 2017. Harmanpreet has been a part of both teams and led in the 2020 T20 World Cup. "This is the best team we are going forward with. The players have been playing together for a long time. For us, we came so close last time and lost in semis (2023).

"We have ticked all the boxes in terms of preparation compared to the small things were not there maybe in earlier editions," said Harmanpreet at the pre-departure press conference.

India have not had game time since end of July when they surprisingly finished runners-up to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup. They had an extensive preparatory camp at the NCA where the players spent a lot of time on fitness and fielding, areas where the team has been found wanting in the past. The conference was also attended by head coach Muzumdar and chief selector Neetu David also made a rare appearance.

"During the Asia Cup, we played good cricket, one odd day things did not go to plan," said Harmanpreet, who has been part of all the T20 World Cup that have been staged to date. She has played so many global events in a career spanning close to a decade and half but feels that she is as excited as her maiden World championship. "I know I have played so many World Cups but I have the same excitement as I had when I was 19," the 35-year-old skipper said.

The main challenge will come from England and Australia, who have found a way to beat India in ICC events even from difficult situations. "We can beat any team and Australia know that very well. They know if there is one team that can beat them it is us," said Harmanpreet.

Focussed on enhancing athletic ability

Head coach Muzumdar shed more light on the team's focus areas during the training camp in Bengaluru. "We did identify a few things (after the loss to Sri Lanka) and we went about in the subsequent camp. We first had a fitness and fielding camp. Then we had a 10-day skills-only camp. We brought in a sports psychologist also (Mughda Bawre). She has been fantastic with the group.

"We focused on enhancing athletic ability, all-round fielding abilities, there were yoga sessions and psychological sessions were added." On lack of game time, he said: "We are prepared for everything. In the skills camp, we had nets and five games in 10 days time. We have ticked all the boxes as far as preparation is concerned," said Muzumdar. He also displayed supreme confidence in the batting department, which doesn't have the firepower possessed by the likes of Australia and England. PTI

Indian team captain Harmanpreet Kaur interacts with the media ahead of their departure for the Women's T20 WC. —Photo: PTI

India, Germany to play two-match series

NEW DELHI

The Indian men's hockey team will take on Germany in a two-match bilateral contest at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on October 23 and 24, Hockey India announced on Tuesday.

The last time India faced Germany was in the semi-final of the Paris Olympics, where the European giants emerged victorious by 3-2 margin. India won the bronze medal at this year's Olympics beating Spain in the third place play-offs.

Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey expressed his enthusiasm and stated: "This bilateral series against Germany will be a remarkable showcase of world-class hockey. "We are honoured to host this event, which will not only promote the spirit of hockey but also strengthen the bond between the two nations," the former India captain further stated.

HI Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added: "The India-Germany hockey rivalry has always been a thrilling contest. Our players are eager to compete against such a good side, and I believe this series will offer both teams a chance to fine-tune their skills and strategies ahead of future international tournaments." PTI

Rest of India announce squad for Irani Cup

NEW DELHI

Middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan, wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel and pacer Yash Dayal are set to be released from the Indian team for the Irani Cup in case they are not selected in the playing XI for the second Test against Bangladesh, starting September 27 in Kanpur.

The BCCI on Tuesday announced the Rest of India squad, led by Ruturaj Gaikwad, which will take on reigning Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai in Lucknow from October 1-5. "Dhruv Jurel and Yash Dayal have been selected in the Rest of India squad and their participation is subject to them not being involved in the second Test match against Bangladesh in Kanpur," said the BCCI statement on Tuesday.

> Ishan Kishan is one of the two wicket-keepers to be picked in the squad along with Dhruv Jurel

As reported by PTI on Monday, prolific run-getter Sarfaraz, who represents Mumbai domestically, too will play for his home side, led by Ajinkya Rahane, if he does not figure in the playing XI for the second Test against Bangladesh. "Sarfaraz Khan who has been retained in the Team India squad for the 2nd Test, will be released to represent the Mumbai team subject to him not being involved in the second Test match against Bangladesh in Kanpur," added the BCCI statement.

SQUAD: Ruturaj Gaikwad (C), Abhimanyu Easwaran (VC), Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Manav Suthar, Saransh Jain, Prasidh Krishna, Mukesh Kumar, Yash Dayal, Ricky Bhui, Shashwat Rawat, Khaleel Ahmed, Rahul Chahar. PTI

SL call-up uncapped spinner Peiris

GALLE

Sri Lanka have named off-spinner Nishan Peiris as a replacement for injured pacer Vishwa Fernando in their squad for the second Test against New Zealand, announced Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Tuesday.

Fernando developed tightness in his right hamstring during practice and has been sent to the High-Performance Center for rehabilitation. "Vishwa Fernando had developed a tightness in his right hamstring while practicing, hence, he has been sent to the High Performance Center for rehabilitation. Nishan Peiris, the 27-year-old right-arm offspinner, has been added to the squad in place of Fernando," SLC said in a statement released on Tuesday. Fernando, who claimed 5/86 in his last Test appearance, will be a notable absentee for Sri Lanka.

SQUAD: Dhananjaya de Silva (C), Dimuth Karunaratne, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Oshada Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Nishan Peiris, Lahiru Kumara, Prabath Jayasuriya, Ramesh Mendis, Jeffrey Vandersay, Milan Rathnayake. IANS

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NEW DELHI

Need to keep Pant quiet: Cummins

Pat Cummins acknowledged that Rishabh Pant has been a "major influence" in India's back-to-back Test series wins Down Under, stressing the need to keep the flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter "quiet" in the upcoming five-Test series later this year. Pant scored a century in the first Test against Bangladesh last week. "He's someone that has a big influence in a couple of series and we have got to try and keep him quiet," Cummins said.

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DUBAI

Bosch, Litchfield rise in rankings

Ahead of the forthcoming Women's T20 World Cup 2024, South Africa's Anneke Bosch and Australia's Phoebe Litchfield have made notable gains in the ICC Women's T20I batting rankings. Bosch's scores of 24 and 46 in the last two matches of their T20I series against Pakistan in Multan, has lifted her three places to joint-15th position. Litchfield moved up 20 slots to a career-best 41st position after her 64 not out off 43 balls in the second T20I against New Zealand.

VIENTIANE

Cherian skipper of U-20 side

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Rahul bhai was regimented, Gambhir is relaxed: Ashwin

Gautam Gambhir is more relaxed compared to his predecessor Rahul Dravid, who had a "regimented" style of functioning, feels Indian team's oldest member Ravichandran Ashwin. Pointing out the difference, Ashwin noted that Gambhir has a relaxed approach and helps in maintaining a lively atmosphere in the dressing room, calling him a "relaxed Rancho". "I think he (Gambhir) is very relaxed. I want to call him relaxed rancho,"Ashwin said.

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I've no regrets of not playing Test cricket, says Dhawal

Kulkarni, who made his India debut against England in Birmingham in 2014, went on to play 12 ODI matches and two T20Is, taking a combined 22 scalps for the country. In 96 First-Class matches, he scalped 285 wickets for Mumbai at an average of 27.11."During my time, the Indian team had fast bowlers who were performing well, and because of that, I couldn't play Test. I have no regrets for it. I did my best whenever I played for India," Kulkarni said.

CRICKET ADELAIDE

Strikers head coach Paine optimistic about Allen's impact

As the Adelaide Strikers gear up for BBL 14, newly appointed head coach Tim Paine is optimistic about the impact of his West Indian recruit Fabian Allen. Known for his explosive power-hitting, left-arm spin, and exceptional fielding skills. "Fabian Allen can also bowls really good left-arm orthodox spin and can bowl in any phase of the game, and I think what the people of Adelaide will see is he's also probably the best fielder in the Big Bash," Paine said.

FOOTBALL LIVERPOOL

Liverpool sets target for Alisson's return from injury

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson aims to return to action this weekend, manager Arne Slot said on Tuesday. The Brazil international is recovering from a hamstring injury and has been ruled out of Liverpool's English League Cup third-round match against West Ham United on Wednesday. "Alisson is getting there but I think this game is coming just a bit too early and we are looking at the weekend against Wolves, but it's going to be tight," Slot said.

CHESS HYDERABAD

Arnav wins Brilliant Trophy Open Online Chess Tournament

Arnav Pradhan of Sadhu Vaswani International School, Kompally, Hyderabad won the Brilliant Trophy Open Online Chess Tournament on Tuesday. Arnav scored 10.5 points from 12 rounds to clinch the title.
Results: Top ten places: 1. Arnav Pradhan, 2. Krishna Kishore Rallabandi, 3. KVK Karthik, 4. Vakeesh, 5. A Vishwaa, 6. K Vasisht Ramanarao, 7. Srkara Darbha, 8. P Karyasheel, 9. Jayini Aditya Ram, 10. Rithvk Marri.

Grand welcome for chess champions

Gukesh, Pragg, Vaishali and Srinath greeted by fans in Chennai

PTI
CHENNAI

Flashing radiant smiles after their history-making gold at the Olympiad, members of India's trailblazing chess teams returned to an enthusiastic welcome from fans, officials and their families here on Tuesday.

The quartet of D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, R Vaishali, and men's team captain Srinath Narayanan landed here early this morning. Both the Indian men's and women's teams scripted history on Sunday, winning their maiden gold medals in the Chess Olympiad in Hungary. Their extraordinary victory reinforced India's position as a new chess powerhouse. And as was expected, there were loud cheers as the four walked out of the airport.

Gukesh, who was instrumental in Indian men's team dominance in the tournament with an unbeaten run, flashed his individual and team gold medals for the cameras. The 18-year-old is now gearing up for the world championship clash against China's Ding Liren in November after becoming the youngest-ever challenger to the crown by winning the Candidates Tournament in April.

"It's very special, since both the teams won the gold," Gukesh said. The brother-sister duo of Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali Narayanan reached in the before Gukesh. All of them were welcomed with garlands, bouquets and traditional stoles as fans scampered to click selfies with them. "I'm very happy that we have won the Olympiad for the first time, we have only won a bronze till now. And we managed to win in both sections so it's a very special feeling and a proud moment for us," Praggnanandhaa said. "We were playing good chess and it showed that we were the best team. The Olympiad is the only tournament we play as a team for the country," he added.

Vaishali, who laid the foundation for the women's team's triumph, said missing out on the gold in the last edition in Chennai was painful. "It's a dream moment. Last time in the Chennai Olympiad we won bronze, we were so close to winning gold that we missed it in the last round and it was very painful. I'm glad that both teams have won gold. It's a historical moment.

"We won six matches in a row and then lost to Poland, a painful defeat but I'm happy that we came back. We drew against the US next and last two matches we had to win to secure gold," she added.

Chess Grandmaster D Gukesh being welcomed upon his arrival in Chennai on Tuesday. —Photo: PTI

Kasparov hails India's double glory

NEW DELHI: Former world chess champion Garry Kasparov showered praise on the Indian team for historic double gold in both the men's and women's events at the 2024 Chess Olympiad. In a historic triumph, India's men's and women's teams clinched gold medals for the first time in the 45th Chess Olympiad. "Vishy's children" are all grown up and chess is coming home! Two American flags on the podiums as well, worthy of note. Add Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, with no European flags," Kasparov posted on X. IANS

'India tick all boxes ahead of T20 WC'

Harmanpreet confident in team's preparation

MUMBAI

The feeling of near misses has haunted Harmanpreet Kaur for long but the Indian captain feels that her team has ticked all the boxes in its bid to cross the line in the Women's T20 World Cup beginning in the UAE from October 3.

Since the tournament's inception in 2009, India have managed to reach the final only once — in 2020 when they lost to nemesis Australia. India also played ODI World Cup final in 2017. Harmanpreet has been a part of both teams and led in the 2020 T20 World Cup. "This is the best team we are going forward with. The players have been playing together for a long time. For us, we came so close last time and lost in semis (2023).

"We have ticked all the boxes in terms of preparation compared to the small things were not there maybe in earlier editions," said Harmanpreet at the pre-departure press conference.

India have not had game time since end of July when they surprisingly finished runners-up to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup. They had an extensive preparatory camp at the NCA where the players spent a lot of time on fitness and fielding, areas where the team has been found wanting in the past. The conference was also attended by head coach Muzumdar and chief selector Neetu David also made a rare appearance.

"During the Asia Cup, we played good cricket, one odd day things did not go to plan," said Harmanpreet, who has been part of all the T20 World Cup that have been staged to date. She has played so many global events in a career spanning close to a decade and half but feels that she is as excited as her maiden World championship. "I know I have played so many World Cups but I have the same excitement as I had when I was 19," the 35-year-old skipper said.

The main challenge will come from England and Australia, who have found a way to beat India in ICC events even from difficult situations. "We can beat any team and Australia know that very well. They know if there is one team that can beat them it is us," said Harmanpreet.

Focussed on enhancing athletic ability

Head coach Muzumdar shed more light on the team's focus areas during the training camp in Bengaluru. "We did identify a few things (after the loss to Sri Lanka) and we went about in the subsequent camp. We first had a fitness and fielding camp. Then we had a 10-day skills-only camp. We brought in a sports psychologist also (Mughda Bawre). She has been fantastic with the group.

"We focused on enhancing athletic ability, all-round fielding abilities, there were yoga sessions and psychological sessions were added." On lack of game time, he said: "We are prepared for everything. In the skills camp, we had nets and five games in 10 days time. We have ticked all the boxes as far as preparation is concerned," said Muzumdar. He also displayed supreme confidence in the batting department, which doesn't have the firepower possessed by the likes of Australia and England. PTI

Indian team captain Harmanpreet Kaur interacts with the media ahead of their departure for the Women's T20 WC. —Photo: PTI

India, Germany to play two-match series

NEW DELHI

The Indian men's hockey team will take on Germany in a two-match bilateral contest at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on October 23 and 24, Hockey India announced on Tuesday.

The last time India faced Germany was in the semi-final of the Paris Olympics, where the European giants emerged victorious by 3-2 margin. India won the bronze medal at this year's Olympics beating Spain in the third place play-offs.

Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey expressed his enthusiasm and stated: "This bilateral series against Germany will be a remarkable showcase of world-class hockey. "We are honoured to host this event, which will not only promote the spirit of hockey but also strengthen the bond between the two nations," the former India captain further stated.

HI Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added: "The India-Germany hockey rivalry has always been a thrilling contest. Our players are eager to compete against such a good side, and I believe this series will offer both teams a chance to fine-tune their skills and strategies ahead of future international tournaments." PTI

Rest of India announce squad for Irani Cup

NEW DELHI

Middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan, wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel and pacer Yash Dayal are set to be released from the Indian team for the Irani Cup in case they are not selected in the playing XI for the second Test against Bangladesh, starting September 27 in Kanpur.

The BCCI on Tuesday announced the Rest of India squad, led by Ruturaj Gaikwad, which will take on reigning Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai in Lucknow from October 1-5. "Dhruv Jurel and Yash Dayal have been selected in the Rest of India squad and their participation is subject to them not being involved in the second Test match against Bangladesh in Kanpur," said the BCCI statement on Tuesday.

> Ishan Kishan is one of the two wicket-keepers to be picked in the squad along with Dhruv Jurel

As reported by PTI on Monday, prolific run-getter Sarfaraz, who represents Mumbai domestically, too will play for his home side, led by Ajinkya Rahane, if he does not figure in the playing XI for the second Test against Bangladesh. "Sarfaraz Khan who has been retained in the Team India squad for the 2nd Test, will be released to represent the Mumbai team subject to him not being involved in the second Test match against Bangladesh in Kanpur," added the BCCI statement.

SQUAD: Ruturaj Gaikwad (C), Abhimanyu Easwaran (VC), Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Manav Suthar, Saransh Jain, Prasidh Krishna, Mukesh Kumar, Yash Dayal, Ricky Bhui, Shashwat Rawat, Khaleel Ahmed, Rahul Chahar. PTI

SL call-up uncapped spinner Peiris

GALLE

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In Brief

HYDERABAD

HCA preps for Ind-B'desh tie

Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president A Jagan Mohan Rao revealed that preparations are underway for the India-Bangladesh T20 match at Uppal Stadium on October 12. On Tuesday, the HCA chief along with secretary R Devraj and councillor Sunil Kumar Agarwal held a meeting with Malkajgiri DCP PV Padmaja to discuss security arrangements.

HYDERABAD

Jai, Avanish hit fifties in Sr Zonals

Team Yellow's Jai Ram Kashyap (60) and A Avanish Rao (52) smashed fifties to take their side to 186/5 in 52.5 overs against Team Red on day one of the HCA Men's Senior Zonals Tournament in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Results: Team Yellow 186/5 in 52.5 overs (Jai Ram Kashyap 60, A Avanish Rao 52) vs Team Red.

Jeevan, Vijay crowned champs

Win Hangzhou Open title

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan (left) and Vijay Sundar Prasanth.

NEW DELHI

India's Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and his partner Vijay Sundar Prashanth clinched their maiden ATP title together, winning the Hangzhou Open men's doubles event, while Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti finished runners-up at the Chengdu Open on Tuesday.

The unseeded Indian duo of Jeevan and Vijay scripted a remarkable comeback to defeat the unseeded German team of Constantin Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens 4-6, 7-6(5), 10-7 in a one hour and 49 minutes battle. For the 35-year-old Jeevan, this was his second ATP Tour title, having won the Chennai Open with Rohan Bopanna way back in 2017. This was Vijay's first-ever ATP Tour title. After losing the first set 4-6, the Indian pair showed immense resilience, holding their nerve to force a tie-break in the second set, which they clinched 7-6 (5).

The match then headed into a deciding super tie-break, where Jeevan and Vijay displayed poise under pressure, prevailing 10-7 to seal the win. The Indians managed two aces against their opponents' eight and saved two of the three break points they faced. Jeevan and Vijay remained rock solid on the second-serve points, winning 74 percent of them.

Yuki misses a third

Yuki and his French partner Olivetti narrowly missed out on a third title this year, losing 4-6, 6-4, 4-10 to the top-seeded French pair Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul in a tense final at the Chengdu Open.

Both teams battled hard, with Bhambri and Olivetti winning the second set to push the encounter to a tie-break before falling short in the final moments in a match lasting more than one hour 30 minutes. PTI

'Goal is to get Sindhu back on podium'

New coach Anup Sridhar aims to restore consistency in her performance

PTI
NEW DELHI

PV Sindhu still has the hunger to succeed, and the primary aim is to help her regain consistency, says her new coach Anup Sridhar, who has been roped in by the two-time Olympic medallist on a trial basis following the Paris Games.

Sindhu, who returned from the French capital without a medal for the first time in three Olympics, has been training under Sridhar, a Beijing Olympian, for the past three weeks at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad. "I spoke with Sindhu's team a few weeks ago, and she has been training under me in Hyderabad since the start of this month. We've made significant progress, and in two weeks, we'll head to tournaments in Europe," the 41-year-old Sridhar, who also briefly coached Lakshya Sen, said.

Sindhu lost in the pre-quarters to China's He Bingjiao at the Paris Games and will restart her BWF world tour season with the European leg, which includes the $ 420,000 Arctic Open in Vantaa, Finland (October 8-13), and the $ 850,000 Denmark Open (October 15-20) in Odense.

"I'm taking it week by week," said Sridhar, who has been brought on board for the remainder of the season after Indonesian Agus Dwi Santoso's contract ended post-Paris Olympics. "Since we haven't committed to anything long-term, it's hard to plan for 2025. However, there are a couple of tournaments in 2025 that Sindhu should aim to peak at," he said.

"You can plan for physical peaks, but not for form. I have my eye on a few tournaments next year, but the immediate focus is to enhance her consistency and get her back on the podium — that's the big goal." Sindhu last won the Singapore Open and Commonwealth Games in 2022 and finished as runner-up at the Madrid Spain Masters in 2023 and the Malaysia Masters Super 500 in May this year.

Reflecting on his run so far, Sridhar, said: "I've spent this time understanding her situation, and I'm pleased to report that she's completely physically fit, with no signs of aches or pains. "We've followed our training schedule without missing any sessions. I'm working on helping her unlearn certain things while introducing new elements to her game." Sindhu suffered a knee injury during the French Open in October last year and returned to competitive play just five months before the Paris Games.

"She faced a tough couple of years with some good results but lacked consistency during that period," Sridhar said. "In just three weeks, I've noticed decent improvements, but there's still more work to be done," said Sridhar, a 2007 Asian Championships bronze-medallist.

"If we can get her to a level where she's consistently advancing past the early rounds, regardless of her draw or opponent, she'll have a realistic chance of making a strong comeback," Sridhar said Sindhu has accomplished nearly everything in badminton.

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Hyun II joins coaching staff

NEW DELHI: Shuttler PV Sindhu will have South Korean great Lee Hyun Il as her consulting coach on an interim basis as she bolsters her coaching team ahead of her anticipated return to action next month. Hyun Il, a former world No. 1 and Sindhu's teammate during the Premier Badminton League (PBL), brings vast international experience and a reputation for meticulous preparation. He is a 2006 World Championships bronze medallist in singles and has two Asian Games team gold medals in 2002 and 2014. PTI

Golconda Masters set to begin

HYDERABAD

Telangana Golconda Masters 2024 will be held at the Hyderabad Golf Club (HGC) from September 26 to 29, Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the official sanctioning body of professional golf in India, announced.

The prize purse for the event is Rs 1 crore. The Pro-Am event will be held on September 25. It will witness participation by 126 golfers (123 professionals and three amateurs). The top Indian professionals in the fray include PGTI Ranking leader Veer Ahlawat, Manu Gandas, Udayan Mane, Shaurya Binu and Karan Pratap Singh.

The foreign challenge will be led by Czech Republic's Stepan Danek, Bangladeshis Jamal Hossain, Badal Hossain, Md Akbar Hossain, Sri Lankans N Thangaraja, K Prabagaran, Andorra's Kevin Esteve Rigaill, Nepal's Subash Tamang, Canada's Sukhraj Singh Gill, South Korea's Si In Kim, Japan's Makoto Iwasaki and American Dominic Piccirillo.

The local challenge will be led by Hyderabad-based players including professionals Mohd Azhar, Milind Soni and Hardik S Chawda as well as amateurs Sankeerth Nidadavolu, Vilok Gadwal and Adit Ahluwalia. The 212-acre HGA golf course expanse provides an 18-hole, 6017-yard, par-70 layout that also features a floodlit driving range, a pro shop, a golf fitting shop, and training and practice facilities. IANS

Somdev, Purav take AITA to court

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the stand of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) on a petition against holding of its election later this month allegedly in violation of the Sports Code.

Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav issued notice to the sports body as well as the Centre on the petition by former India tennis player Somdev Devvarman and doubles player Purav Raja, and said the election will be subject to the outcome of the plea. While refusing to stay the election at this stage, the judge also directed that the result of the polls, which are scheduled to be held on September 28, shall not be published. The senior counsel appearing for the petitioners argued that AITA was holding the election in a "clandestine manner" as there was "nothing on the website". PTI

HFC face confident Punjab

NEW DELHI

Punjab FC will be looking to extend their winning streak to three matches while Hyderabad FC aim to secure their first points of the season after a difficult start when the two teams face off in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday.

Punjab FC head into round three, sitting third in the table, level on points with leaders Bengaluru FC and second-placed Jamshedpur FC, having won both of their opening fixtures. Hyderabad FC, on the other hand, have had a tough start, with a 0-3 loss to Bengaluru FC in the last round, leaving them without a goal in their last two outings. PTI

Players of Hyderabad FC during a training session.

Horoscope

J U B Sastry

ARIES
Aries (March 21-April 20)
With Northern Node in ruling quarters, you may be on a long-distance journey in your country for professional or business purposes. You may begin the journey on a happy note but as it progresses, you may find it tedious. There may be unexpected obstacles and you may undergo more halts. Despite being accustomed to tiresome journeys, you may find it tedious.

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)
You may look worried about what others think of you and your work. But you had better concentrate on the tasks without giving an impression that you are seeking recognition from higher-ups. Don't talk about future and what you are going to do if you become something and something. Speak about the present position with clarity and purpose.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 21)
It seems you are burdened with multiple tasks on hand. With Mars maintaining a low profile in debilitation zone, you may fear you are unable to do justice to all tasks. In fact, you will realise you have diluted your concentration and energy and what you are doing is not good. You may now think of limiting yourself to certain key priorities.

CANCER
(June 22- July 22)
As benevolent entity Jupiter continues to draw energy in comforts zone, you will become more and more flexible. You may become more generous towards others' problems as you explore ways to come to their aid. If you are the father of a college-going daughter, you may become more lenient. You will look at things in broader perspectives.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 23)
The day could be stressful as additional responsibilities keep you occupied at the workplace. You are, perhaps, sharing somebody's responsibility under compulsions. You would generally resist such moves but you may be keeping quiet due to a plethora of reasons. You may do this expecting something in return from higher-ups but you may be wrong. You need to rethink.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
As Mars energises your intelligence and flares up the desire to pursue higher studies, you may plan to go ahead about it. If you are visiting new places for professional or personal purposes, you may receive pleasant news from near and dear ones. If you are visiting a place that you have already visited, you will receive a grand welcome.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
Your friends may realise that you are moving heaven and earth to come out of the web you have pushed yourself into. You may think of using the services of some of your colleagues to claim that you have become a victim of misinformation campaign carried out by professional rivals. You may run out of time to do so but you will look determined.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
With Sun and Southern Node continuing to guide your confidence levels, you will feel free to express opinions. You may gain the impression that your assertions will be taken for granted by people around but be conscious that there would be somebody at least to question the logic behind your statements. Be ready to defend yourself on many counts.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
Celestial influences can turn the day disgusting for you at the workplace and at home as well. Petty discussions and issues may spillover into irritating arguments resulting in unnecessary grudges. You may not like somebody's working style or others may object to the way you are attending to tasks. At home, neighbourly issues may keep you irritated.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
You may be busy assessing the strength of professional rivals rather than own strength. This may be the correct policy as this helps you consolidate the resource strength in tune with that of rivals. With Saturn still moving in retrogression, opponents may work in indirect methods to downgrade your position. Can you reply in the same coin to deal with them?

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)
The day may force you to go for a thorough review of the activities of people working under you. It may be necessary for you to check if they are strictly adhering to the diktats. Some of them may dilute your ideology for personal gains and denigrate your name. Don't take their loyalties for granted under any circumstances. Keep a watch on them.

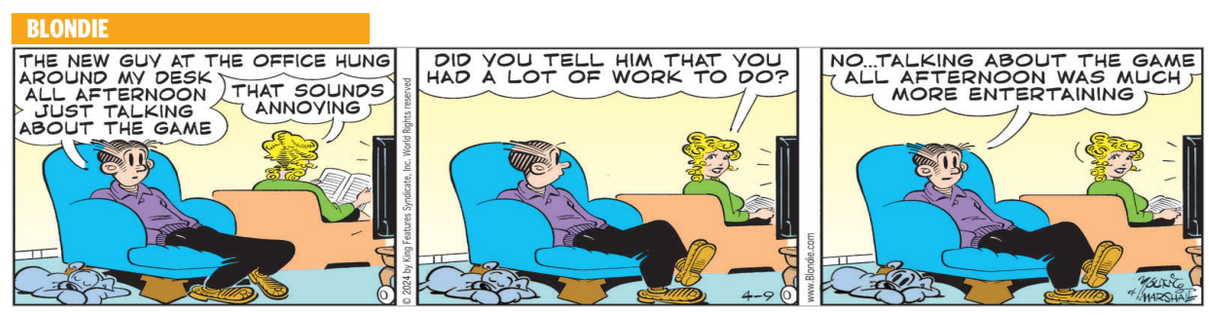
PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)
You may be more intransigent than ever as you stand by your arguments. If you are heading an organisation or department, you may look adamant and defend your decisions with logical explanations. But it may not be logical on your part to not allow yourself to examine arguments of others. You should be flexible enough if you want to grow.

COMIC STRIPS

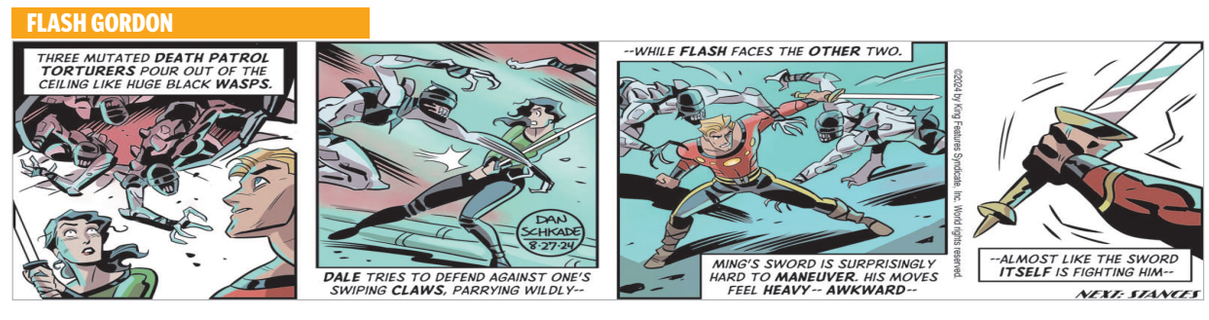
CALVIN & HOBBES

EDISON LEE

BLONDIE



FLASH GORDON



FOR REELS

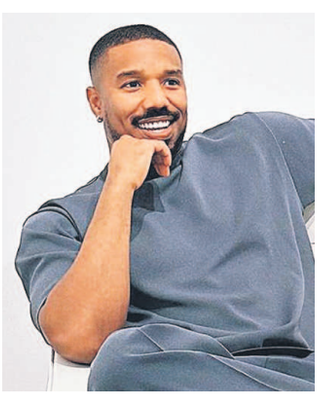
Farah's new cameraman!

Farah Khan shared a hilarious video featuring actor-comedian Kiku Sharda and Rajiv Thakur, showcasing their banter about creating reels.

NEW PROJECT

Jordan's next is 'Sinners'

Filmmaker Ryan Coogler and actor Michael B Jordan's upcoming feature project has been titled 'Sinners'.



CELEBRATING SPECIAL DAY

PRATIBHA THANKS KIRAN FOR 'LAAPATAA LADIES'

THE ACTOR SAYS THE DIRECTOR HAS TAKEN HER 'BENEATH HER 'WINGS'

Pratibha Ranta said that Monday turned out to be "one of the most special days of life" as her film 'Laapataa Ladies' got selected as India's official entry at Oscar 2025 and thanked filmmaker Kiran Rao for taking her under her wings.

Pratibha took to Instagram, where she essayed the role of Jaya in 'Laapataa Ladies', shared a string of pictures with Kiran and her co-stars Sparsh and Nitanshi Goel from the film.

"Yesterday turned out to be one of the most special days of life. Our film 'Laapataa Ladies' was selected as India's official entry to the Oscars, Thank You Kiran Ma'am for all your support and for taking me beneath your wings! A big shout out to our whole team . Can't stop celebrating (sic)," she wrote.

On Monday, Nitanshi too shared pictures with Kiran to celebrate their film. "Phool english mein bataayein? feeling very happy & grateful that Laapataa Ladies is India's official entry for Oscars 2025! Kalaakand banaane ja rahi hun aap sab ke liye.. Aapki Phool (sic)."

On September 23 the comedy drama 'Laapataa Ladies' was chosen and submitted as India's official entry in the Best Foreign Film Category for the Oscars 2025 by the Film Federation of India.

The Oscars are set to be held in March 2025. The film was contending alongside 29 film including names such as 'Animal', 'Kill', 'Kalki 2898 AD', 'Srikanth', 'Chandu Champion', 'Joram', 'Maidaan', 'Sam Bahadur', 'Article 370', the Malayalam film 'Aattam', which was feted with the National Award for Best Feature Film this year and Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine As Light', a Cannes winner.

'Laapataa Ladies', which will be releasing on Japan in October 4, is produced by Rao, Aamir Khan, and Jyoti Deshpande. 'Laapataa Ladies' premiered in March 2024 in India and captivated audiences for over 100 days in theatres and then continued to earn love and appreciation from audiences on OTT.

The film is a slice-of-life comedy about the misadventures of two young brides who become separated on the same train but with different grooms. It is a blend of mistaken identities and laugh-out-loud escapades. IANS

Siddhu busy shooting for 'Jack' in Nepal

Siddhu Jonnalagadda, who scored a massive blockbuster 'Tillu Square', the sequel for 'DJ Tillu' recently, is currently busy with 'Jack', directed by blockbuster director 'Bomarillu' Bhaskar. The film comes with tagline "Konchem Crack".

Bommarillu Bhaskar and Siddhu Jonnalagadda are exploring a new genre and their collaboration is going to give a enthralling experience to the audiences. The film is bankrolled by the popular producer BVSN Prasad under the Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra banner.

The film aims to deliver a fresh experience to audiences, showcasing a new genre. Over 80 per cent of the shooting has already been completed, with important scenes being filmed featuring Siddhu Jonnalagadda, Prakash Raj and Vaishnavi Chaitanya.

The film is currently being shot in Nepal at a rapid pace. Director Bommarillu Bhaskar recently celebrated his birthday on set, with the cast and crew, including Siddhu, Vaishnavi, Prakash Raj, and producer BVSN Prasad, joining in the festivities.

The makers have high expectations for the film, which is designed to be a comedic ride, and Vaishnavi, known for her role in 'Baby', plays the female lead. Music has been composed by Achu Rajamani, who has delivered fantastic tunes that are sure to create sensation. With the combination of a fresh genre, top-notch comedy, and a captivating soundtrack, the film is raising buzz. Siddhu stars in the titular role of 'Jack', who is described as a "Crack gadu", and he promises uproarious laughter and hilarious entertainment. More details about this exciting project will be announced soon.

Suniel Shetty finds therapy 'in gardening'

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty recently shared a glimpse of his serene Sunday routine, describing how he finds solace in gardening. In the video, he is seen pruning and trimming his plants, referring to the process as a form of therapy that helps him reset and rejuvenate.

He expressed how the act of cutting away dead branches mirrors life, where sometimes clearing away the old makes space for the new. Taking to Insta, Suniel shared a calming reel video of his Sunday 'therapy' session. IANS